

**MARVEL**

**EPIC COLLECTION**

# AVENGERS



**ACTS OF VENGEANCE**

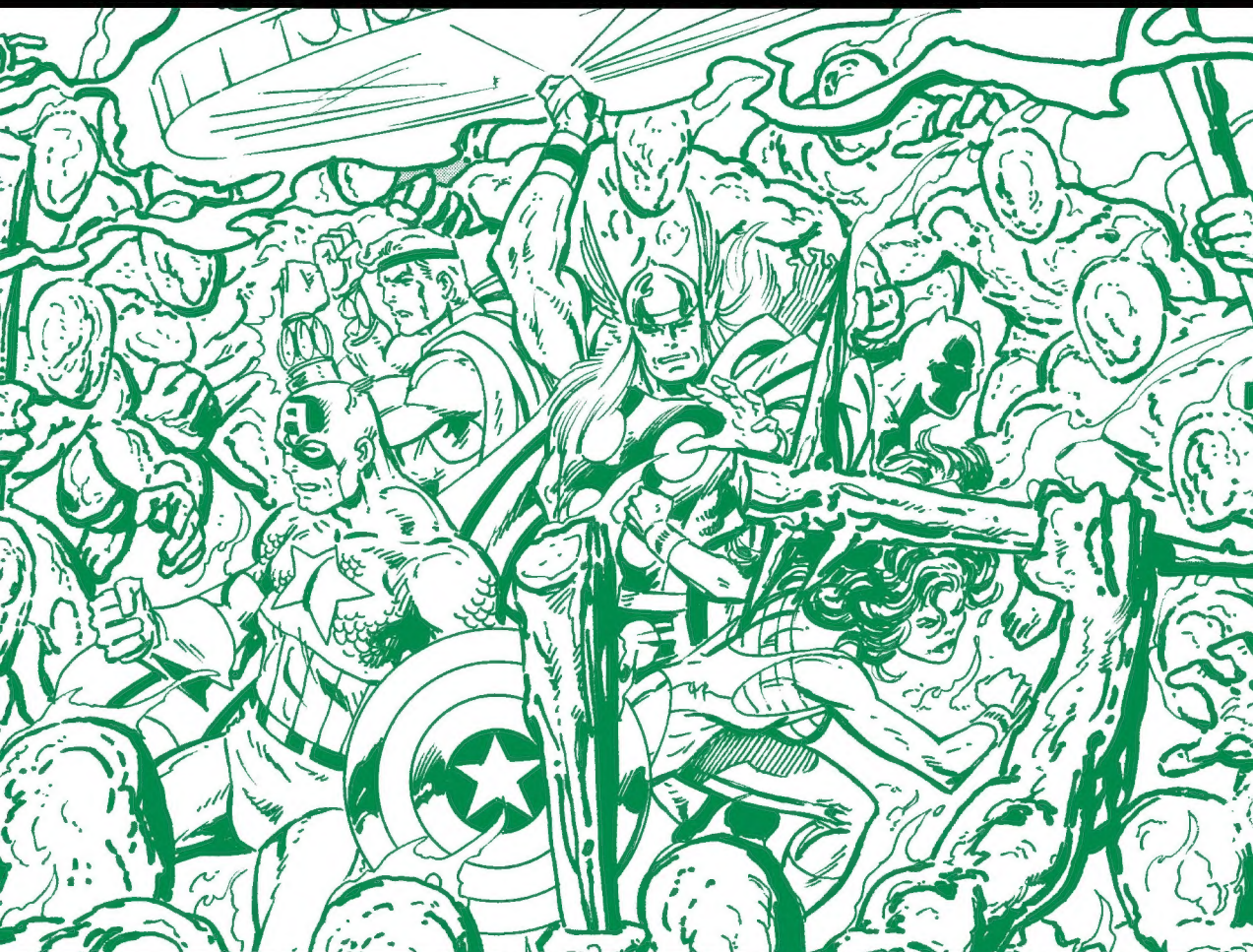
**BYRNE • HIGGINS • NICIEZA • RYAN • WILSON**



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# AVENGERS

**ACTS OF VENGEANCE**

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**VOLUME 19**

1989-1990

AVENGERS #304-318 & ANNUAL #18 AND AVENGERS WEST COAST #53-55



# AVENGERS

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AVENGERS #305, JULY 1989  
"AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!"

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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
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# AVENGERS®

VS. THE U-FOES!





Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

BEHOLD THE MAJESTIC SKYLINE OF MANHATTAN AS IT TOWERS OVER NEW YORK HARBOR. MUCH OF THE DIVERSE PANOPLY OF BUILDINGS THAT MAKE IT FAMOUS THE WORLD OVER...

... WAS BUILT BY AMERICAN INDIAN AND IMMIGRANT LABORERS...

... IMMIGRANTS WHO FIRST ENTERED THE COUNTRY THROUGH THIS SMALL CLUMP OF LAND...

... ELLIS ISLAND.

TODAY, THE IMMIGRATION CENTER ON THIS ISLAND -- THROUGH WHICH POURED THE ANCESTORS OF NEARLY HALF THE PRESENT DAY POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES -- IS BEING REAPED AS A MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION. THE BUZZ AND HUM OF RENOVATION FILLS THE AIR.

BUT THE GRIM INDIVIDUAL WHO APPROACHES THE ISLAND IN A HIRED LAUNCH, HIS FACE CLOAKED IN SHADOW BY HIS SNAP-BRIM HAT...

... HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS. HE HAS A CLEAR, DEFINITE PURPOSE

ONE WHICH WILL IMPERIL THE VERY LIVES OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

## "...Yearning to Breathe Free!"

DANNY  
FINGEROTH  
writer

RICH  
BUCKLER  
breakdown artist

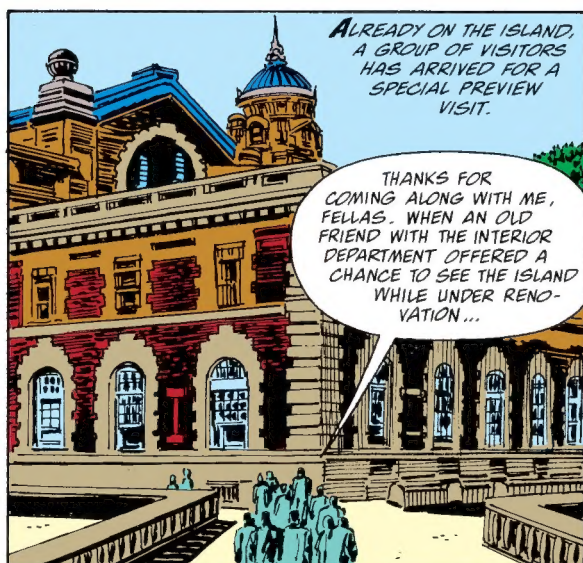
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ALREADY ON THE ISLAND, A GROUP OF VISITORS HAS ARRIVED FOR A SPECIAL PREVIEW VISIT.

THANKS FOR COMING ALONG WITH ME, FELLAS. WHEN AN OLD FRIEND WITH THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFERED A CHANCE TO SEE THE ISLAND WHILE UNDER RENOVATION...



...I JUST HAD TO BRING ALONG SOME COMPANY.

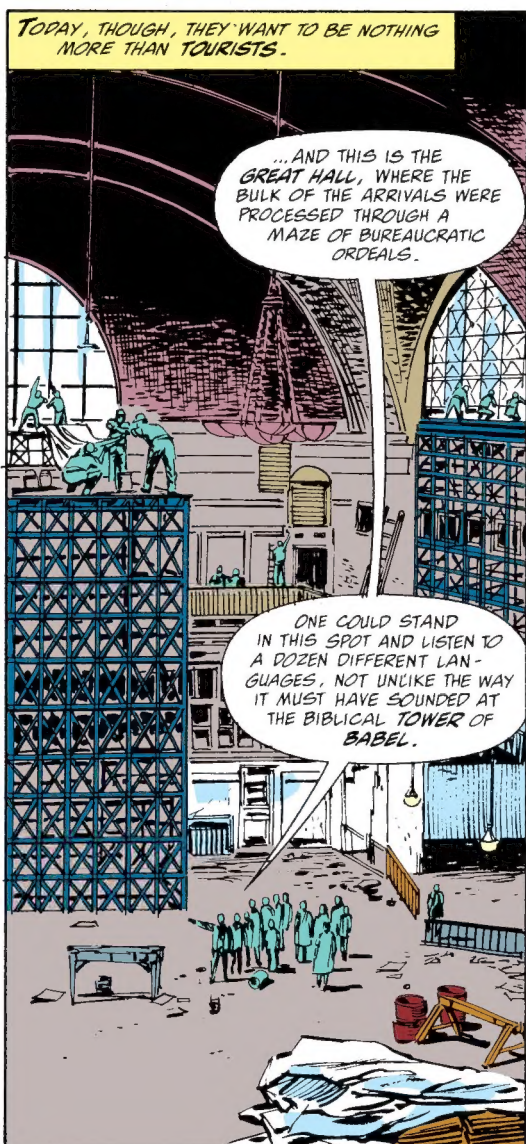
IT IS OUR PLEASURE, STEVE. AFTER THE HECTIC PACE OF RECENT DAYS, WITH THE BATTLE AGAINST THE SUPER-NOVA...

...I WELCOME A CHANCE TO RELAX.

A TRIP ON THE WATER AND TO A NEW PLACE CAN BE REFRESHING, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT THIS INACTION TO LAST FOR LONG.

THE THREE, TRYING THEIR BEST TO MIX IN WITH THE CROWD, ARE THE CIVILIAN-CARBED AVENGERS-- CAPTAIN AMERICA, GILGAMESH, AND THOR.

\* ISSUES #301-303 -- HOWARD.



TODAY, THOUGH, THEY WANT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN TOURISTS.

...AND THIS IS THE GREAT HALL, WHERE THE BULK OF THE ARRIVALS WERE PROCESSED THROUGH A MAZE OF BUREAUCRATIC ORDEALS.

ONE COULD STAND IN THIS SPOT AND LISTEN TO A DOZEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, NOT UNLIKE THE WAY IT MUST HAVE SOUNDED AT THE BIBLICAL TOWER OF BABEL.



I CAME HERE FROM ITALY WITH MY PARENTS.

WHEN A CLERK SENT ME TO BE CHECKED BY A DOCTOR UPSTAIRS, I THOUGHT I'D BE SENT BACK.

LUCKILY, I DIDN'T HAVE TUBERCULOSIS... ONLY A COUGH.



SO MANY WHO GAVE SO MUCH TO THIS COUNTRY CAME THROUGH HERE. YOU CAN JUST FEEL THE HISTORY IN THESE WALLS!

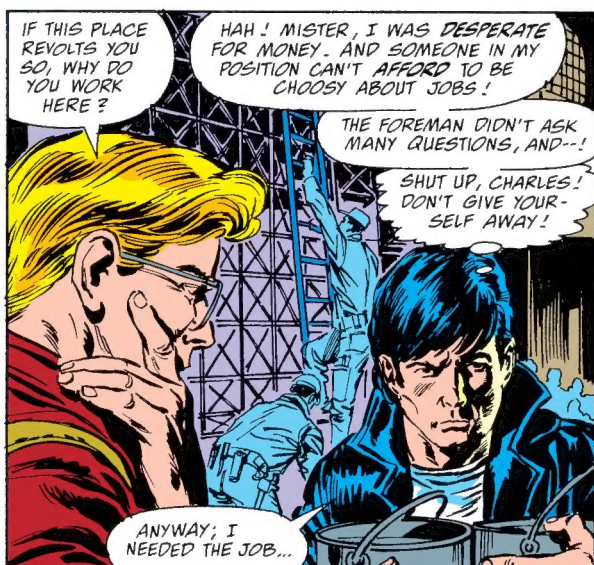
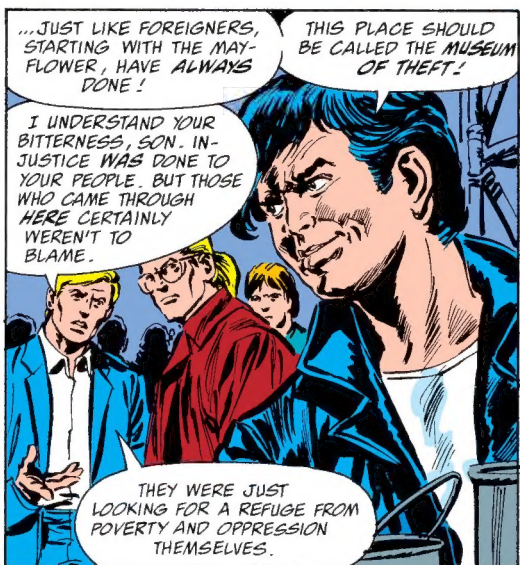
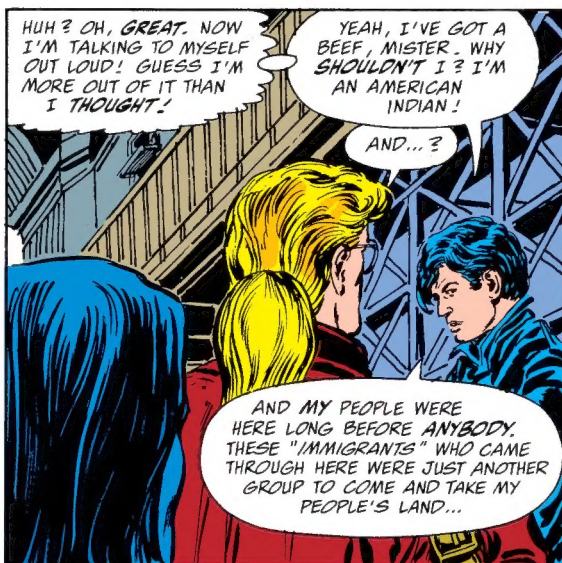
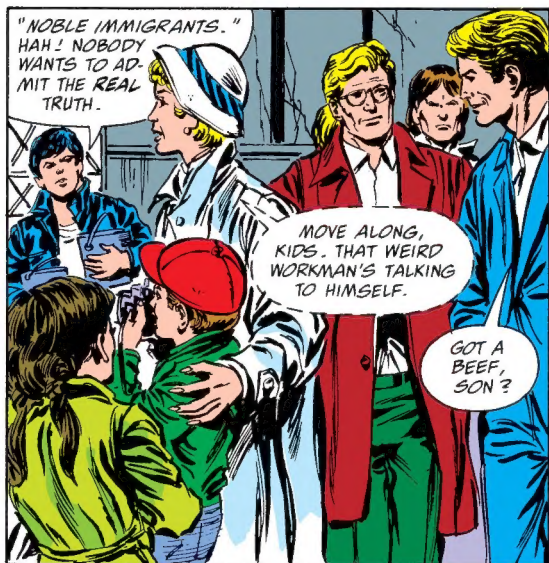
I, MYSELF, STEVE, AM AN IMMIGRANT OF SORTS-- FROM ETERNAL ASGARD. \* I SHARE MUCH IN SPIRIT WITH THOSE WHO PASSED THROUGH HERE.

TO ONE SUCH AS I, WHO HAS BEEN IN THE VERY DOMAIN OF THE CELESTIALS, THIS PLACE IS QUITE MEAGER...

AND YET... THERE IS AN AURA OF GREATNESS ALL ABOUT...!

\* HOME OF THE NORSE GODS -- H.

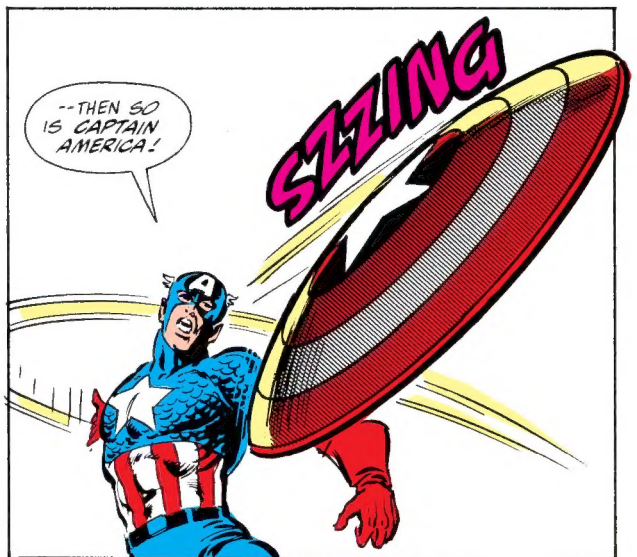
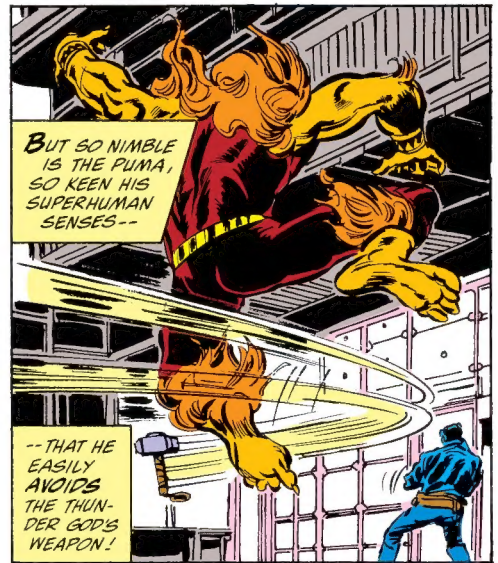
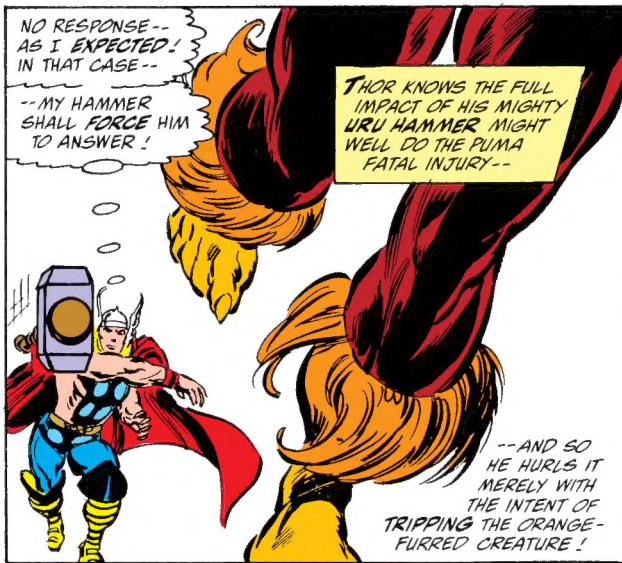
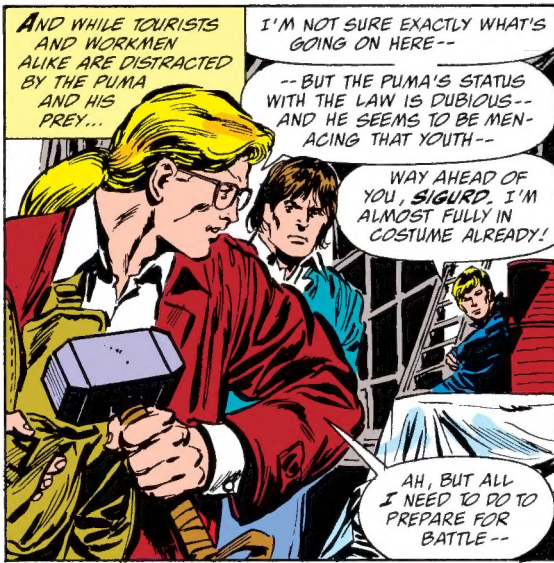




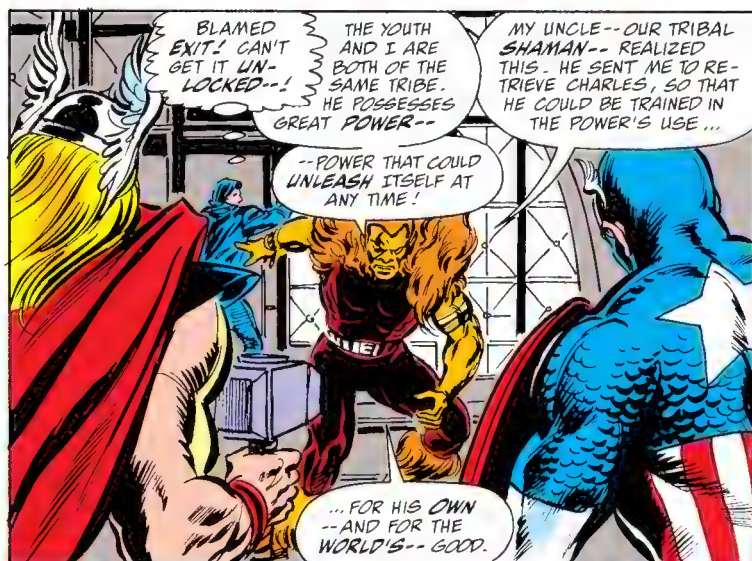
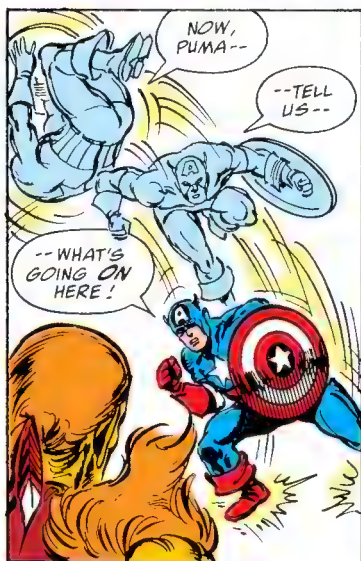
















HE'S LYING! I DON'T HAVE ANY "POWER"! THE ELDERS OF THE TRIBE JUST DON'T WANT ANYONE TO EVER LEAVE IT!

I HAVE THESE HEADACHES-- AND I ACT WEIRD SOMETIMES-- AND THEY WANT TO PUT ME IN SOME KIND OF TRIBAL LOONY BIN OR SOMETHING! AND HE'S THEIR STRONG-ARM MAN!

THERE'S NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT ME, NO SUPERNATURAL "POWER"!

THE AVENGERS HESITATE FOR A SECOND. THE YOUNG MAN IS OBVIOUSLY HIDING SOMETHING.



ON THE OTHER HAND, WHILE PUMA HAS FOUGHT AGAINST THE BEYONDER IN DEFENSE OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE--

-- HE IS ALSO ON RECORD AS A MERCENARY IN THE SERVICE OF SOME DUBIOUS CLIENTS.

PLEASE-- PLEASE DON'T LET HIM TAKE ME--!

BUT THE PUMA CANNOT ALLOW HIMSELF THE LUXURY OF UNCERTAINTY.



HE ALONE KNOWS THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF THE SITUATION.

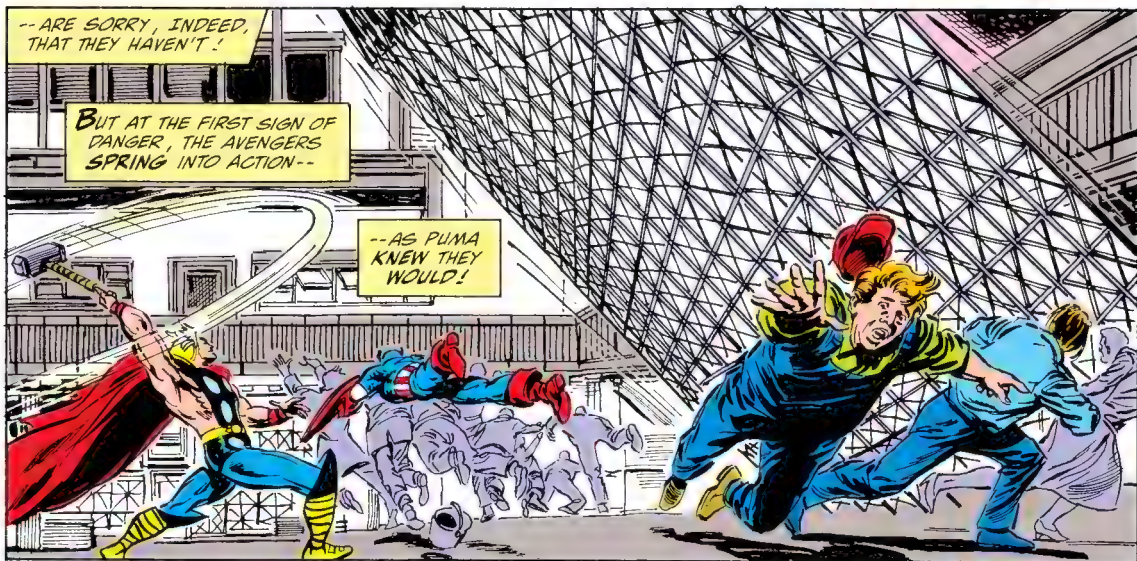
THOUGH HE HATES THE THOUGHT OF WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO--

-- HE KNOWS THAT, FOR THE GREATER GOOD--



-- HE MUST DO IT!!

THE WORKERS AND TOURISTS WHO HAVE NOT YET FLED--



-- ARE SORRY, INDEED, THAT THEY HAVEN'T!

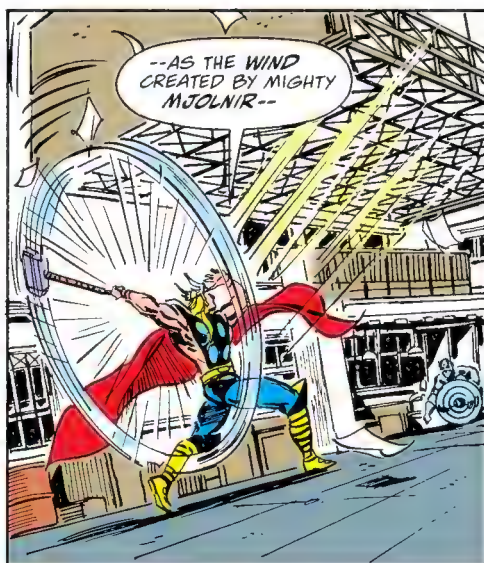
BUT AT THE FIRST SIGN OF DANGER, THE AVENGERS SPRING INTO ACTION--

-- AS PUMA KNEW THEY WOULD!





GILGAMESH!  
STAND READY--



--AS THE WIND  
CREATED BY MIGHTY  
MJOLNIR--



"-- CARRIES THE  
SCAFFOLDING  
YOUR WAY ! "

I HAVE IT,  
THUNDERER !

YOU'LL  
BE OKAY NOW,  
SIR !

TH-THANKS, CAP...



BUT THE PUMA  
HAS TAKEN  
ADVANTAGE OF  
THE DISTRACTION  
HE CREATED--

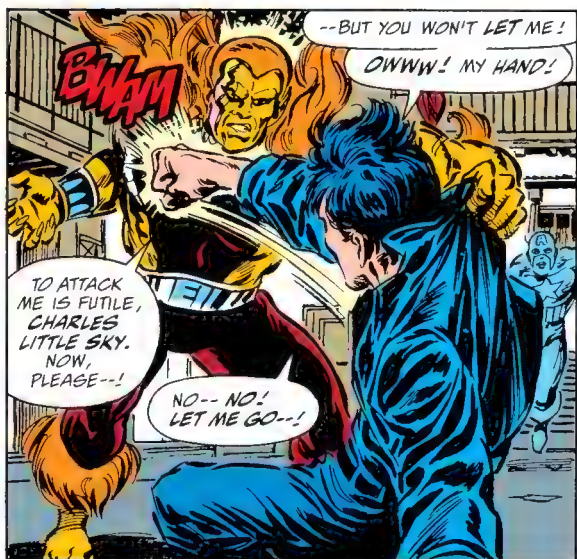
--TO CORNER  
HIS PREY !

NO ! NO !



CHARLES--  
PLEASE ! MY UNCLE  
IS AN HONORABLE  
MAN. AS AM I. WE  
WISH ONLY TO HELP  
YOU--

THAT'S A CROCK,  
MISTER ! I JUST WANT  
TO LIVE MY LIFE, BE  
LEFT ALONE--



--BUT YOU WON'T LET ME !

OHHH ! MY HAND !

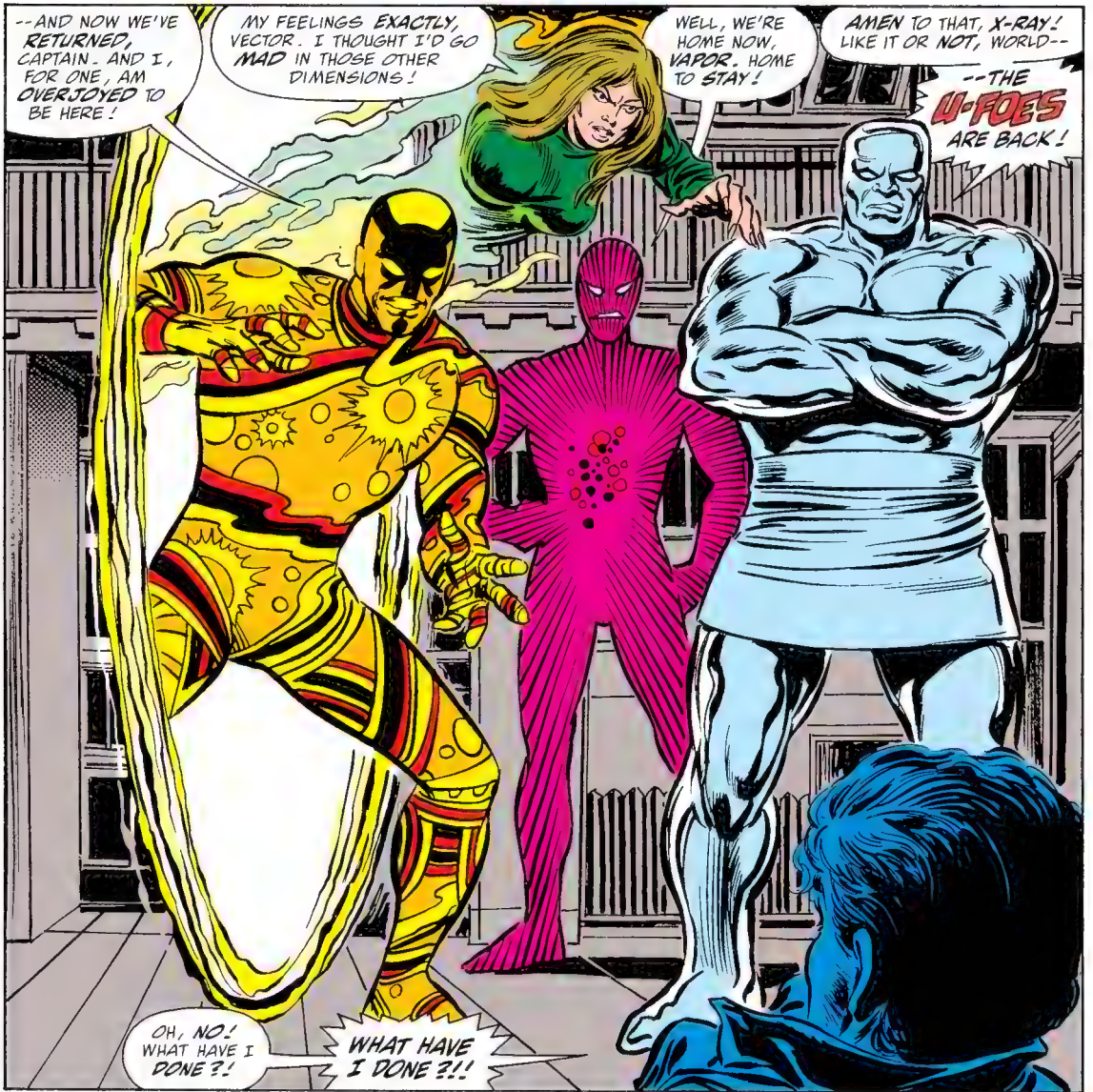
TO ATTACK  
ME IS FUTILE,  
CHARLES  
LITTLE SKY.  
NOW,  
PLEASE--!

NO-- NO !  
LET ME GO--!

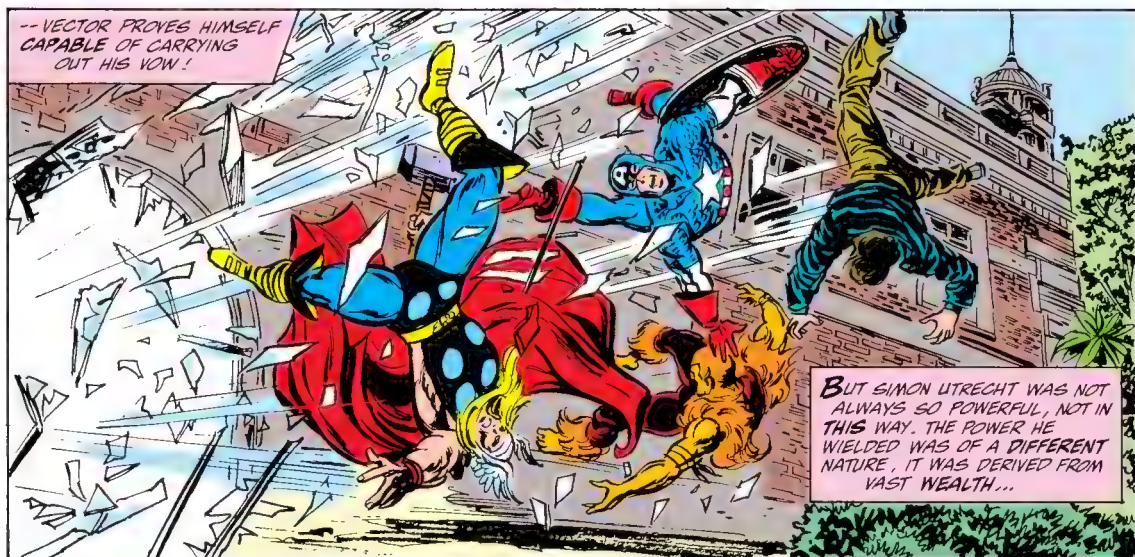
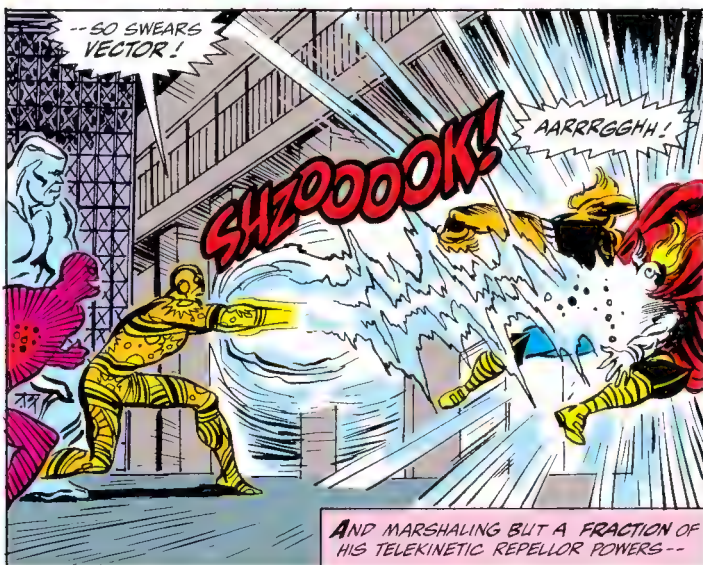
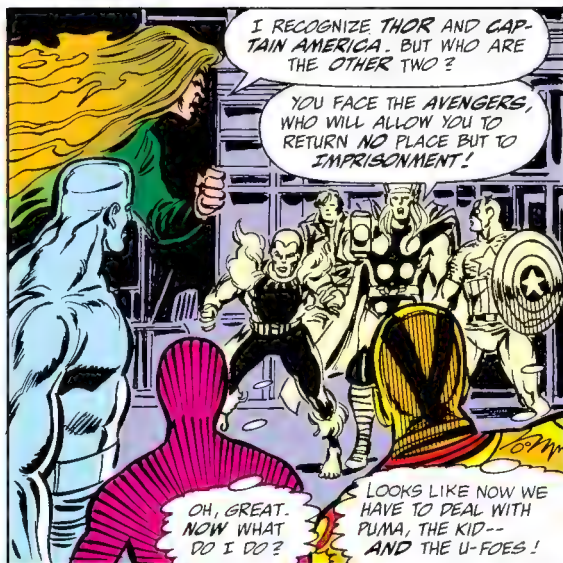
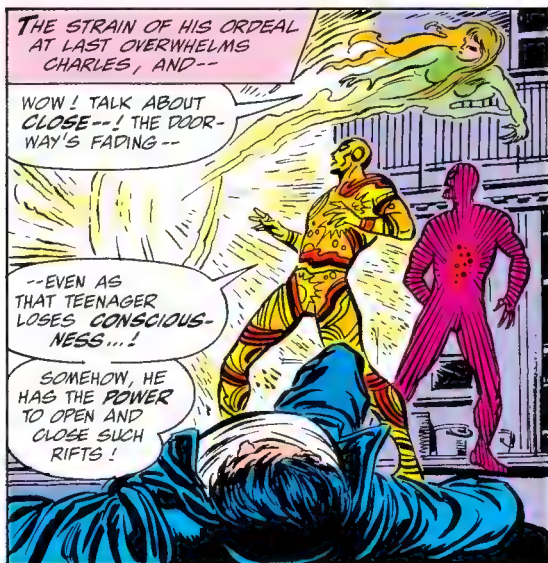














... AND EQUALLY VAST AMBITION.

AMBITION THAT SENT HIM AND HIS THREE ALLIES INTO SPACE, ATTEMPTING TO DUPLICATE THE FLIGHT THAT GAVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR THEIR SUPERHUMAN POWERS.



TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE IN AN UNSHIELDED SHIP--

--THE QUARTET WAS BOMBARDED BY THE SAME COSMIC RAYS THAT EMPOWERED THE F.F.

AND UTRECHT'S DREAM CAME TRUE. RETURNING TO EARTH, HE AND HIS COHORTS GAINED GREAT POWER-- WITH WHICH THEY SOUGHT TO DO EVIL.

SEVERAL TIMES THEY ENCOUNTERED THE INCREDIBLE HULK--

THEN, IN AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT FROM A SPECIALLY-DESIGNED PRISON IN THE SOUTHWEST--

--VECTOR HIMSELF USED TOO GREAT A QUANTITY OF HIS REPULSION POWER--



--AND HURLED THEM OUT OF EARTH'S DIMENSION!

THEY LANDED IN THE DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE KNOWN AS THE CROSSROADS, WHERE THEIR OLD NEMESIS, THE HULK, WAS ALSO STRANDED.

--BUT WERE EACH PROPELLED BY HIM INTO SEPARATE, DANGER-FRAUGHT DIMENSIONS.

--ALL WERE EVENTUALLY ABLE TO FIGHT THEIR WAY BACK TO THE CROSSROADS.

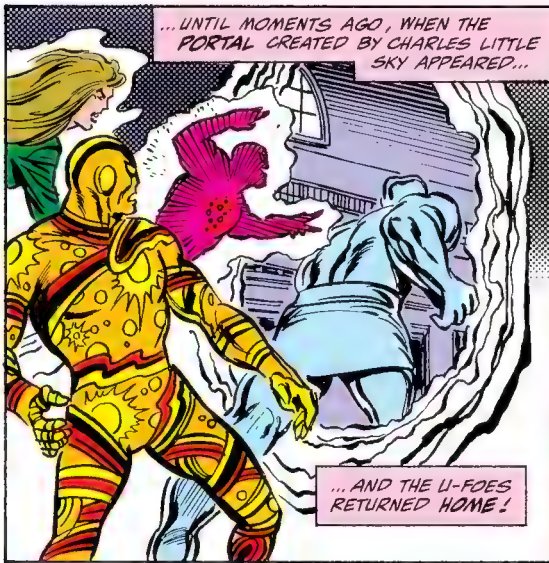
THE HULK WAS GONE, HAVING BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH IN THEIR ABSENCE.

THOUGH FACED WITH FEARSOME THREATS TO THEIR LIVES--

ONCE AGAIN, THEY BATTLED THE HULK--

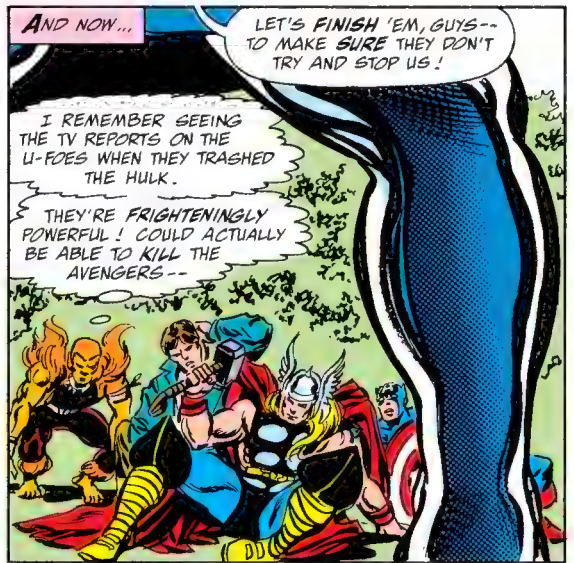
THE U-FOES EVENTUALLY ESCAPED THE DANGERS OF THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS... THOUGH IT APPEARED THEY WOULD NEVER GET BACK TO EARTH...





...UNTIL MOMENTS AGO, WHEN THE PORTAL CREATED BY CHARLES LITTLE SKY APPEARED...

... AND THE U-FOES RETURNED HOME!

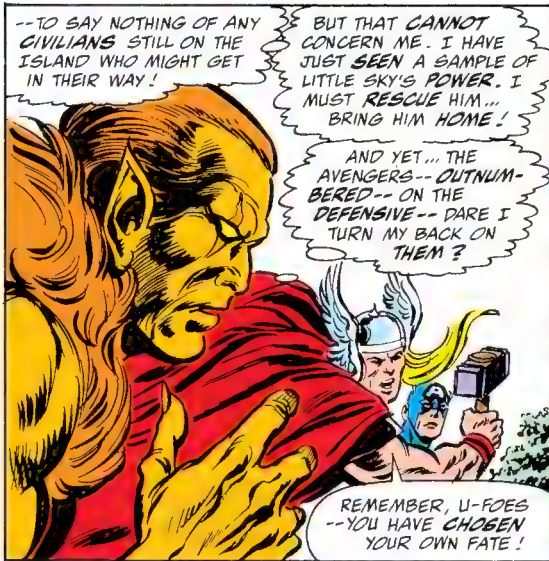


AND NOW...

LET'S FINISH 'EM, GUYS-- TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T TRY AND STOP US!

I REMEMBER SEEING THE TV REPORTS ON THE U-FOES WHEN THEY TRASHED THE HULK.

THEY'RE FRIGHTENINGLY POWERFUL! COULD ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO KILL THE AVENGERS--



--TO SAY NOTHING OF ANY CIVILIANS STILL ON THE ISLAND WHO MIGHT GET IN THEIR WAY!

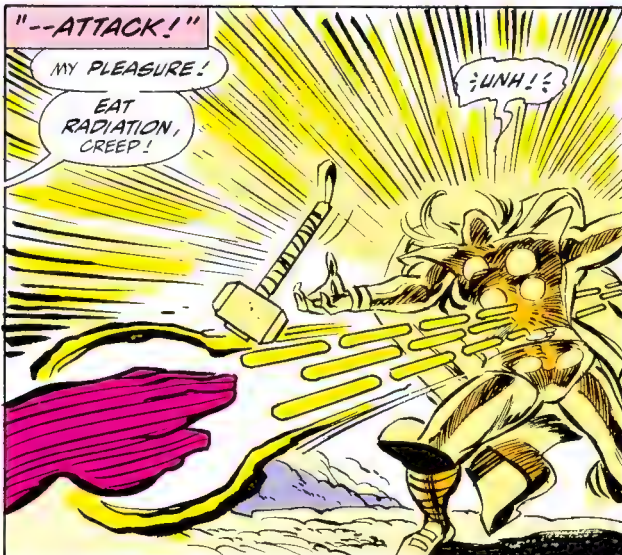
BUT THAT CANNOT CONCERN ME. I HAVE JUST SEEN A SAMPLE OF LITTLE SKY'S POWER. I MUST RESCUE HIM... BRING HIM HOME!

AND YET... THE AVENGERS-- OUTFNUMBERED-- ON THE DEFENSIVE-- DARE I TURN MY BACK ON THEM?

REMEMBER, U-FOES --YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR OWN FATE!



AS HAVE YOU, THOR. X-RAY--

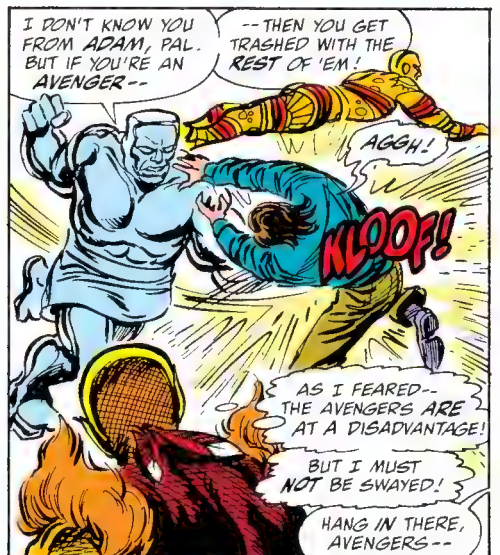


"--ATTACK!"

MY PLEASURE!

EAT RADIATION, CREEP!

UNH!!



I DON'T KNOW YOU FROM ADAM, PAL. BUT IF YOU'RE AN AVENGER--

--THEN YOU GET TRASHED WITH THE REST OF 'EM!

AGGH!

KLOOF!

AS I FEARED-- THE AVENGERS ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE!

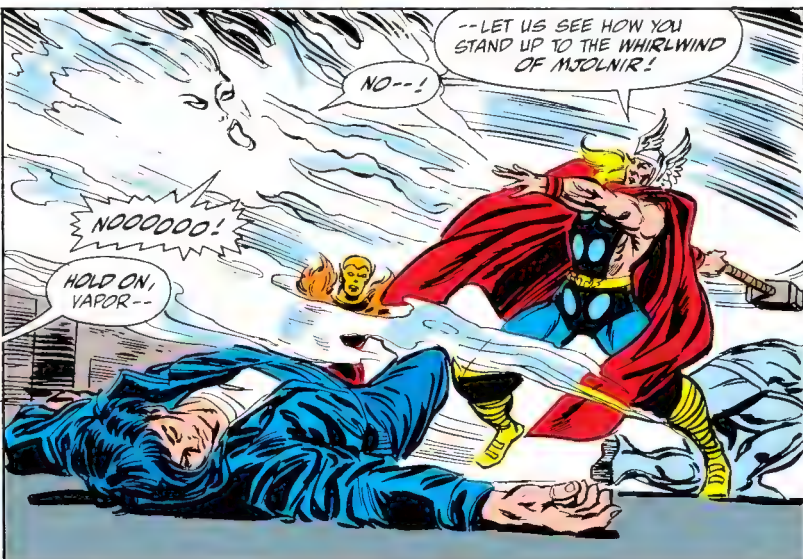
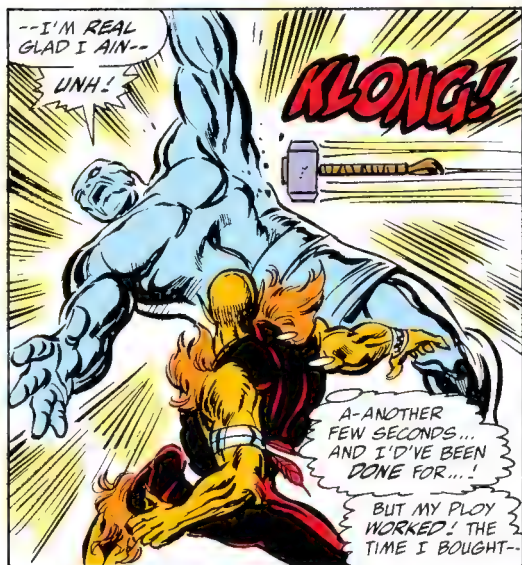
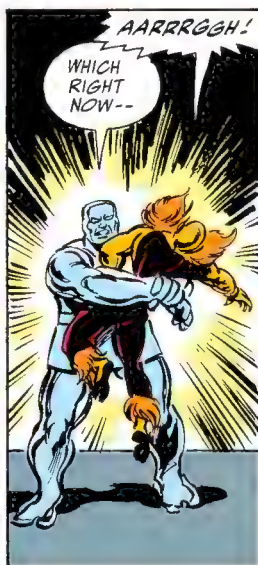
BUT I MUST NOT BE SWAYED!

HANG IN THERE, AVENGERS--

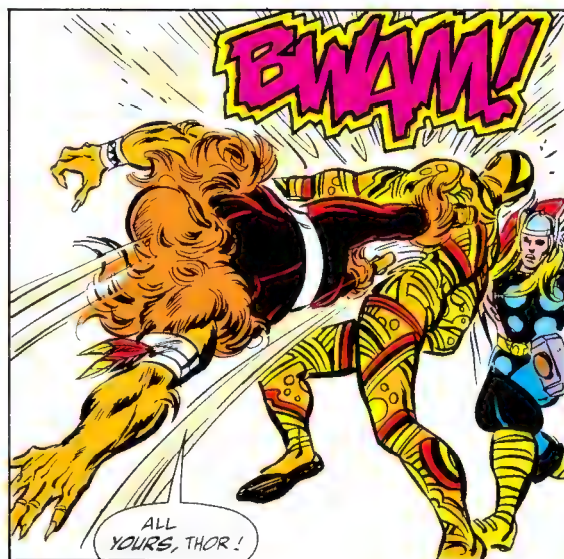
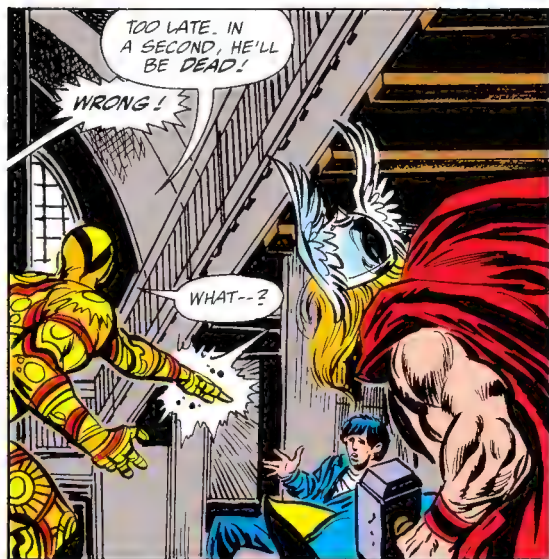
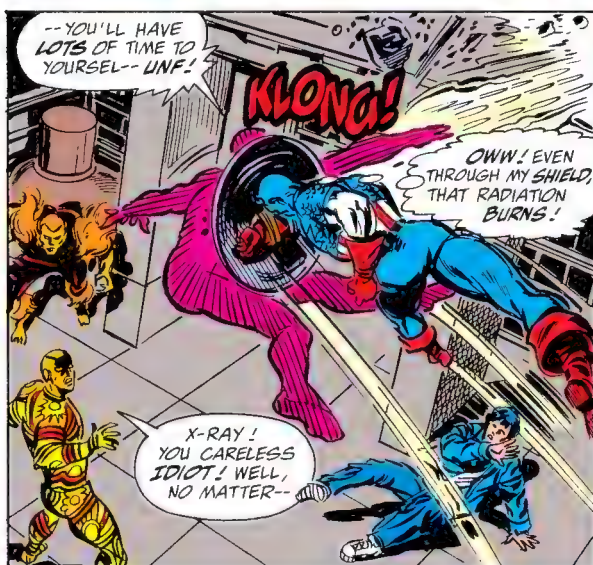




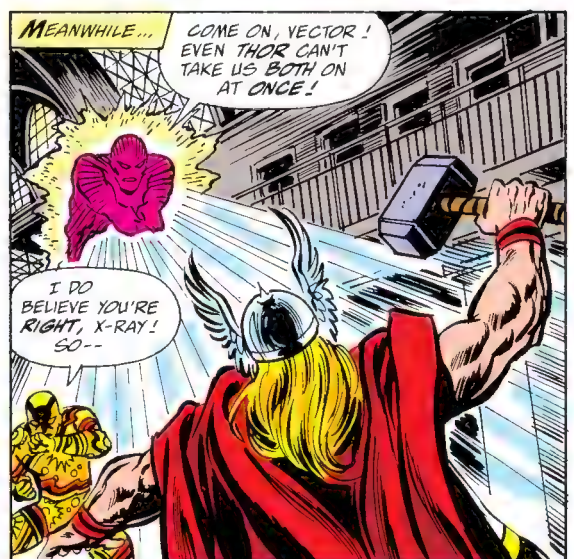
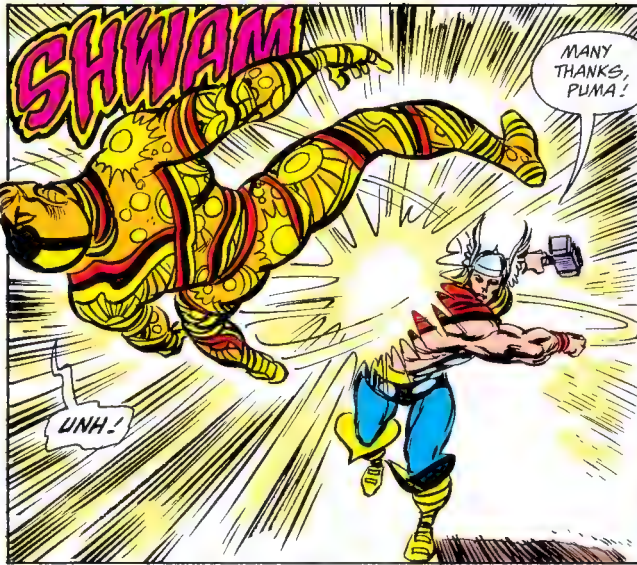




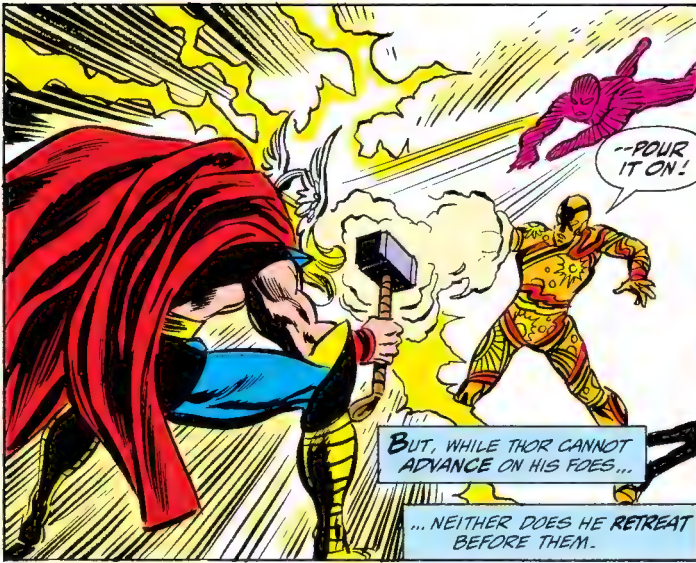












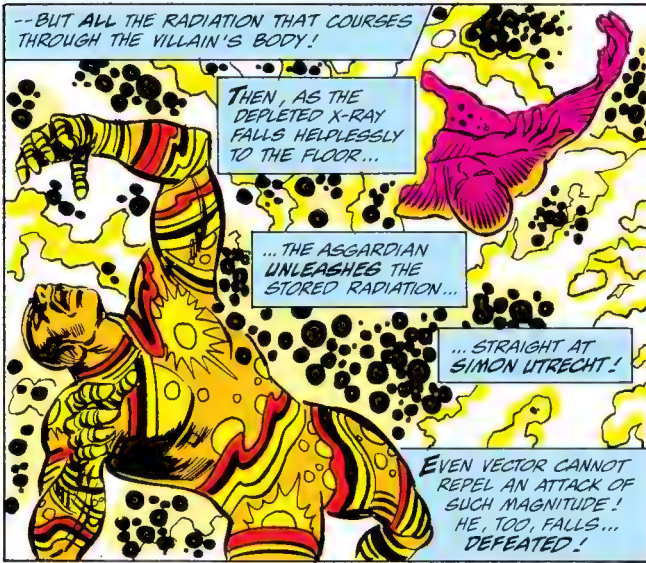
BUT, WHILE THOR CANNOT ADVANCE ON HIS FOES...

...NEITHER DOES HE RETREAT BEFORE THEM.



INDEED, HE STANDS HIS GROUND, SUMMONING ALL HIS IMMORTAL STRENGTH TO FIGHT OFF VECTOR'S POWER--

--WHILE HE USES HIS HAMMER TO ABSORB NOT MERELY THE RADIATION HURLED AT HIM BY X-RAY--



--BUT ALL THE RADIATION THAT COURSES THROUGH THE VILLAIN'S BODY!

THEN, AS THE DEPLETED X-RAY FALLS HELPLESSLY TO THE FLOOR...

...THE ASGARDIAN UNLEASHES THE STORED RADIATION...

...STRAIGHT AT SIMON UTRECHT!

EVEN VECTOR CANNOT REPEL AN ATTACK OF SUCH MAGNITUDE! HE, TOO, FALLS... DEFEATED!



SUDDENLY--

AVENGERS! MY HEIGHTENED SENSES DETECT VAPOR--

--IN LETHAL, COLORLESS FORM--



--FLOATING TOWARD CHARLES! SHE IS RIGHT THERE, THREE FEET ABOVE HIM!

YES! I, TOO, NOW SENSE HER!

THOR...!

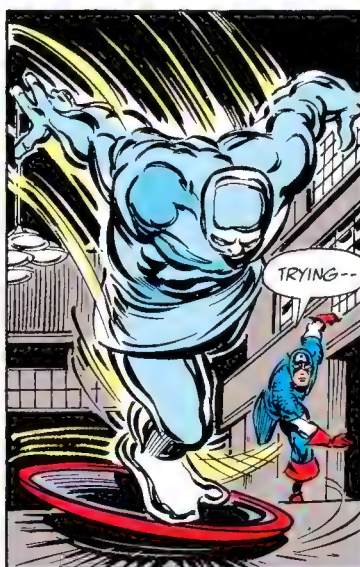
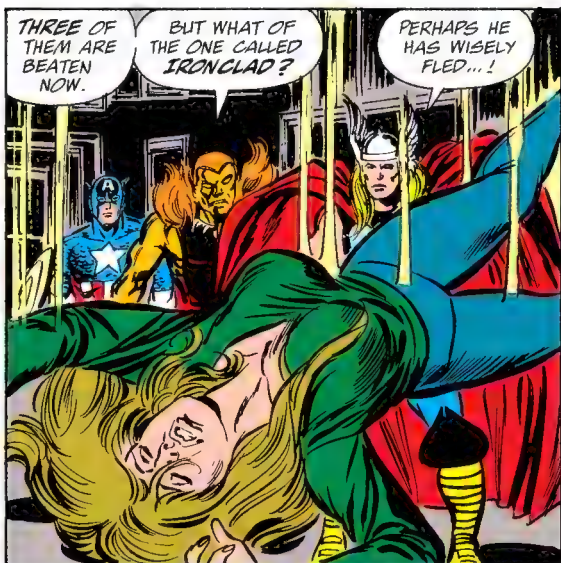
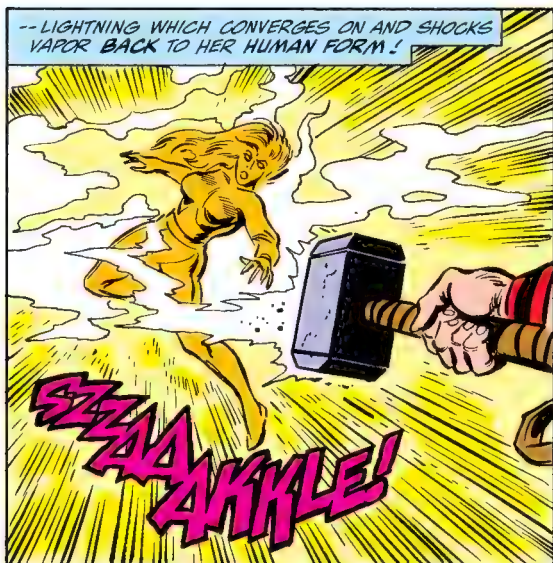


WITHOUT A WORD, THE THUNDERER STRIKES HIS HAMMER'S HANDLE DOWN TWICE--

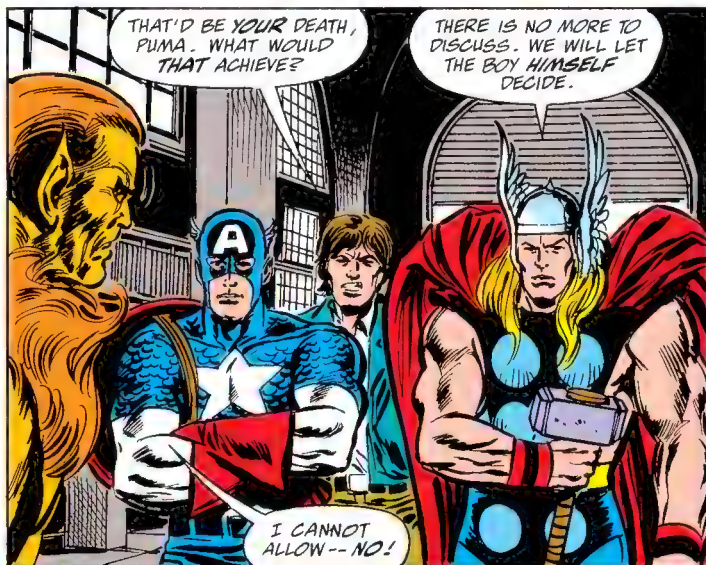
SHRAKK WHEE!

--AND LIGHTNING FILLS THE ROOM--

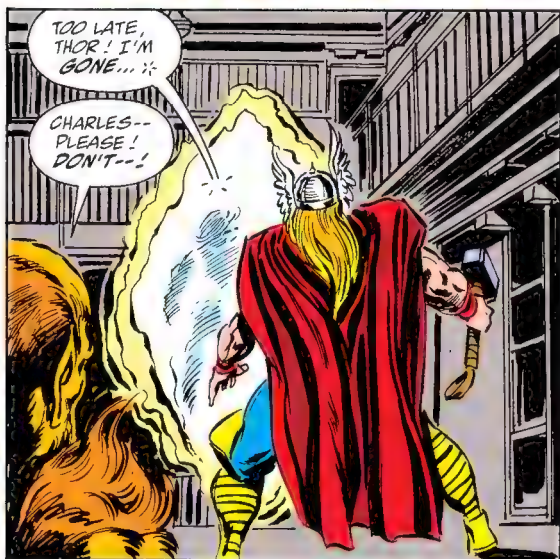
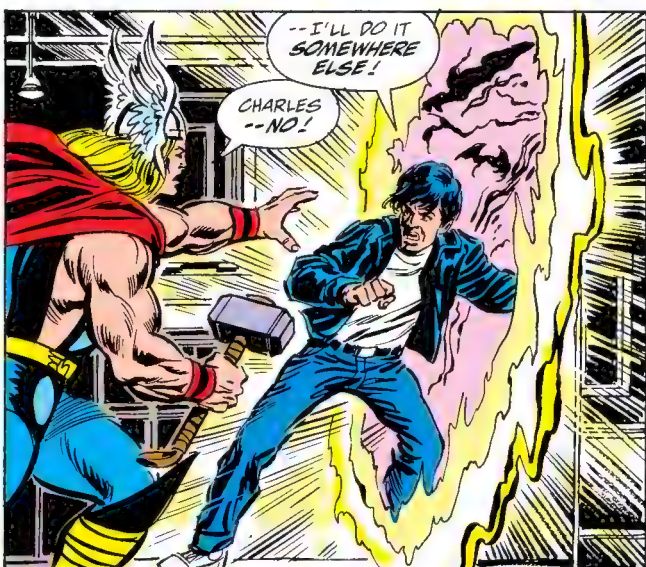




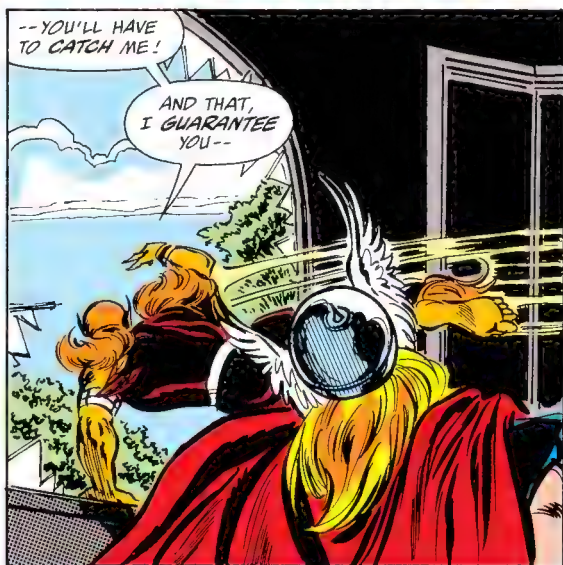
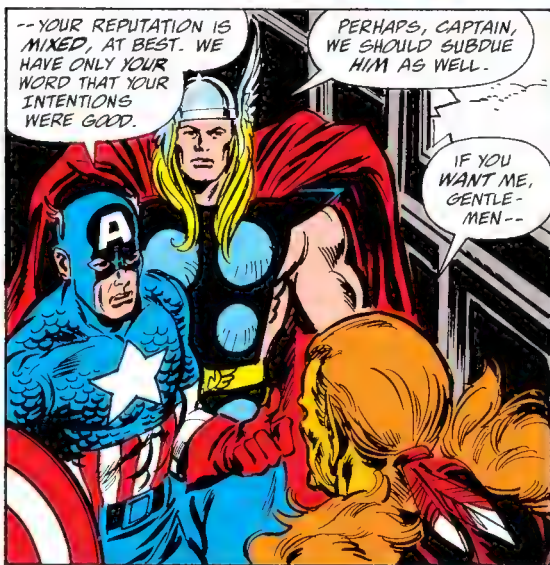
















# AVENGERS

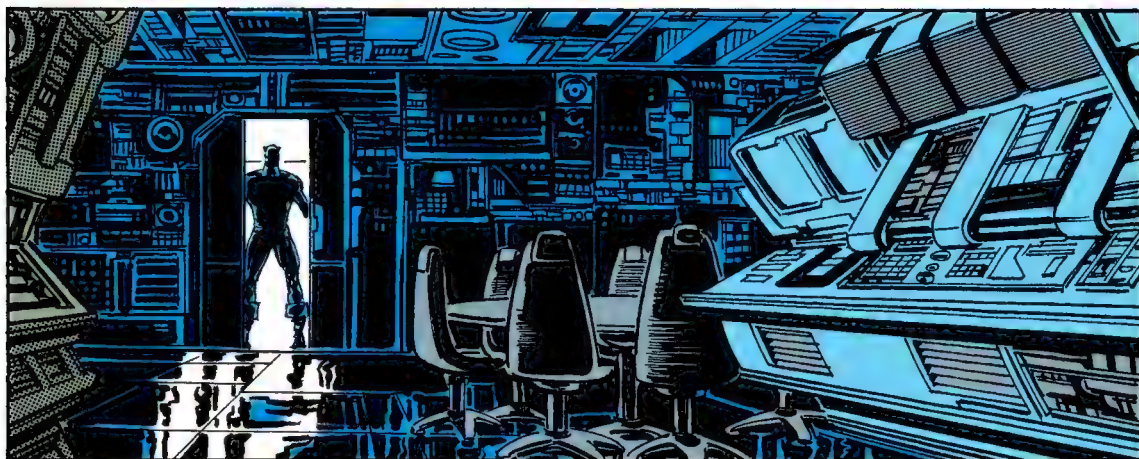
**ATTACK OF THE LAVA MEN!**

\$1.00 US  
\$1.25 CAN  
305  
JUL  
CC 02458

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY







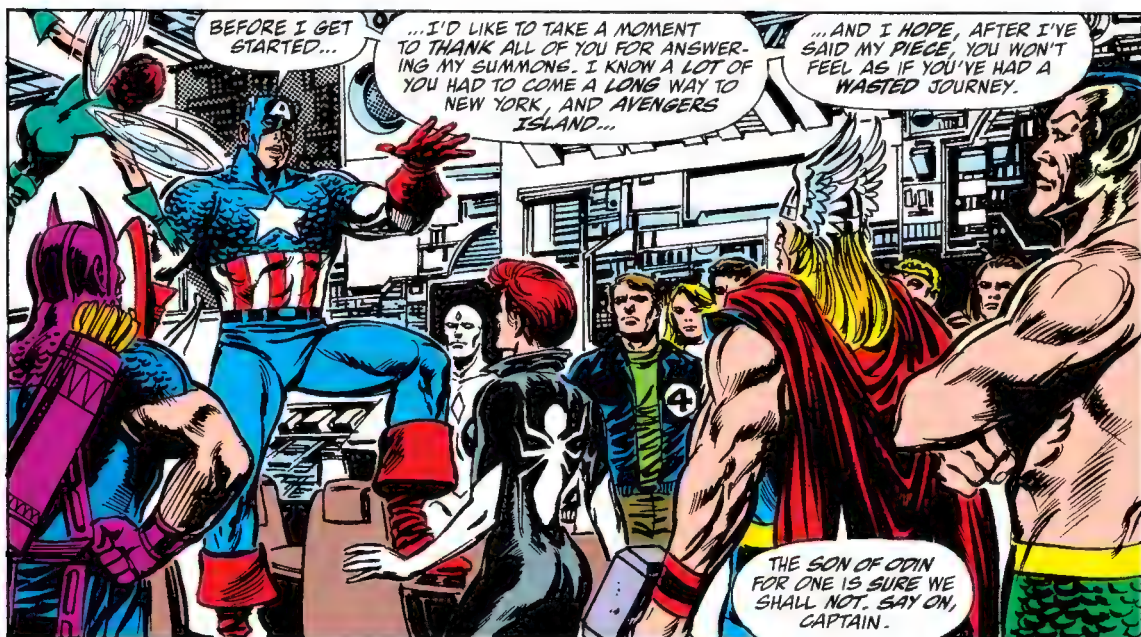




STAN LEE PRESENTS

JOHN BYRNE-WRITER PAUL RYAN-PENCILS TOM PALMER-FINISHES  
BILL OAKLEY-LETTERS CHRISTIE SCHEELE & MARC SIRY-COLORS  
HOWARD MACKIE-EDITOR TOM DEFALCO-EDITOR IN CHIEF



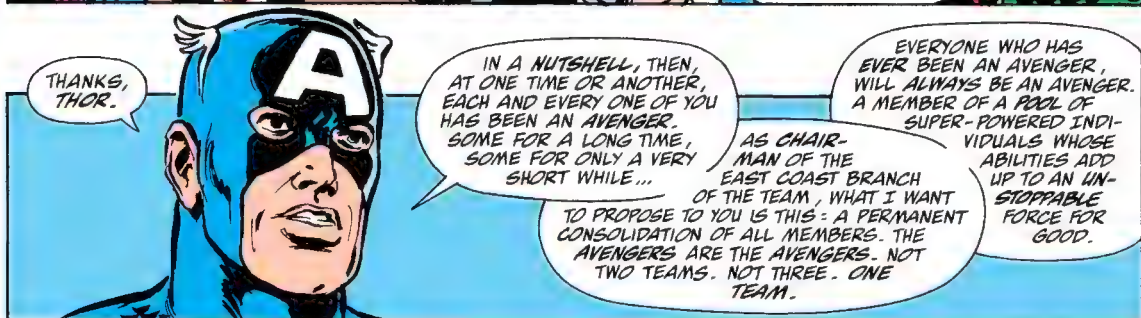


BEFORE I GET STARTED...

...I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR ANSWERING MY SUMMONS. I KNOW A LOT OF YOU HAD TO COME A LONG WAY TO NEW YORK, AND AVENGERS ISLAND...

...AND I HOPE, AFTER I'VE SAID MY PIECE, YOU WON'T FEEL AS IF YOU'VE HAD A WASTED JOURNEY.

THE SON OF ODIN FOR ONE IS SURE WE SHALL NOT, SAY ON, CAPTAIN.



THANKS, THOR.

IN A NUTSHELL, THEN, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS BEEN AN AVENGER. SOME FOR A LONG TIME, SOME FOR ONLY A VERY SHORT WHILE...

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST COAST BRANCH OF THE TEAM, WHAT I WANT TO PROPOSE TO YOU IS THIS: A PERMANENT CONSOLIDATION OF ALL MEMBERS. THE AVENGERS ARE THE AVENGERS. NOT TWO TEAMS. NOT THREE. ONE TEAM.

EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN AN AVENGER, WILL ALWAYS BE AN AVENGER. A MEMBER OF A POOL OF SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS WHOSE ABILITIES ADD UP TO AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE FOR GOOD.



YES, OF COURSE! YOUR REASONING IS PRECISELY THAT WHICH LED US TO FORM THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SAME HERE, HERO. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH USE AN OL' TEST PILOT WILL EVER BE TA THIS TEAM--

AND EVEN THOUGH SUE AND I ARE NOW BACK WITH THE FF...

...WE'LL BE DELIGHTED TO COME WHEN YOU NEED US, CAP. WE COULD DO NO LESS!

--BUT I WUZ A MEMBER OF THE WEST COAST AVENGERS WHEN I WUZ STILL TH' THING...

AN' IF YOU NEED ME, ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS HOLLER.



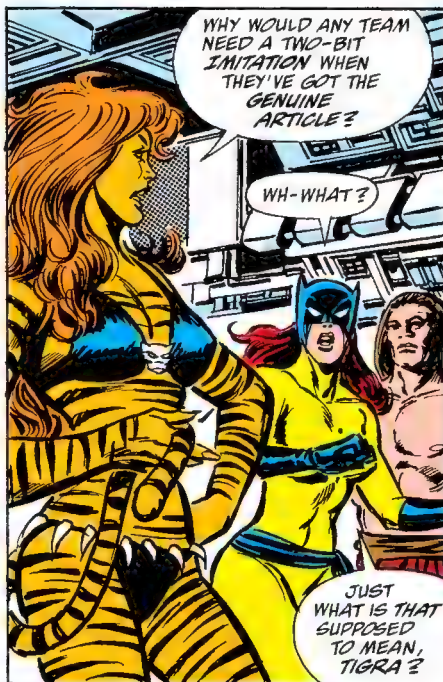
INDUBITABLY DUPLICATED HERE, CAP.

ALTHOUGH MY PRIMARY LOYALTIES THESE DAYS LIE WITH MY FELLOW MUTANTS OF X-FACTOR, IF MRS. MCCOY'S LITTLE BOY HANK CAN EVER BE OF SERVICE, YOU HAVE BUT TO WHISTLE!

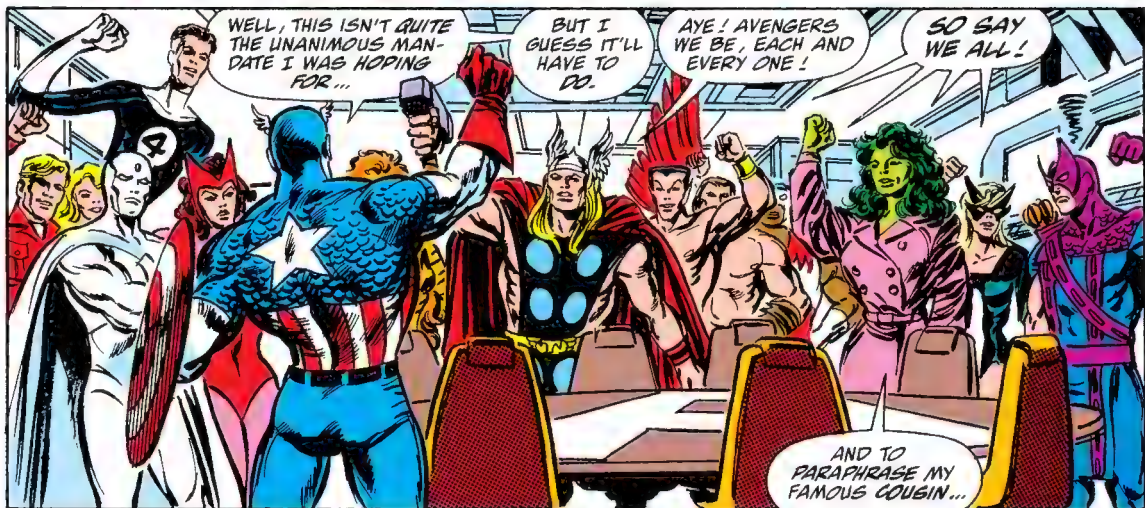
THANKS, BEAST.

HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

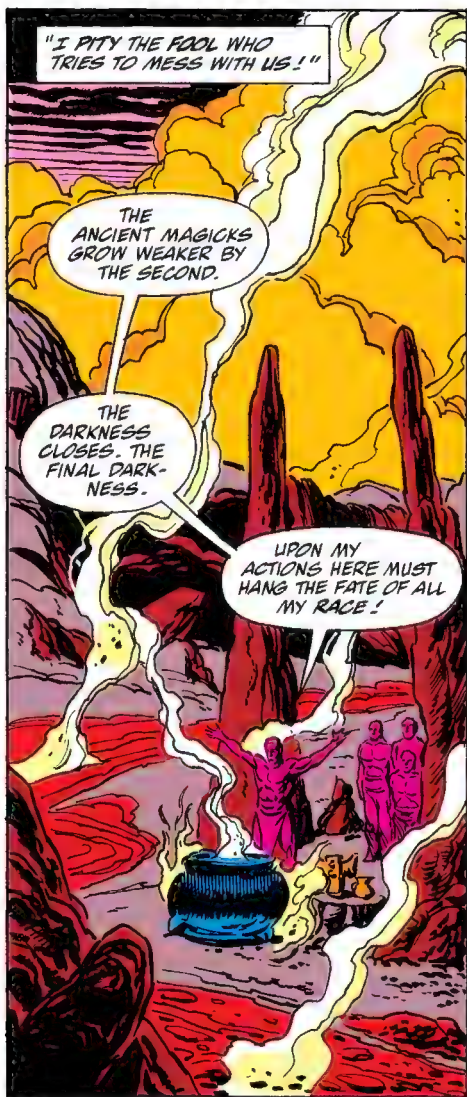












"I PITY THE FOOL WHO TRIES TO MESS WITH US!"

THE ANCIENT MAGICKS GROW WEAKER BY THE SECOND.

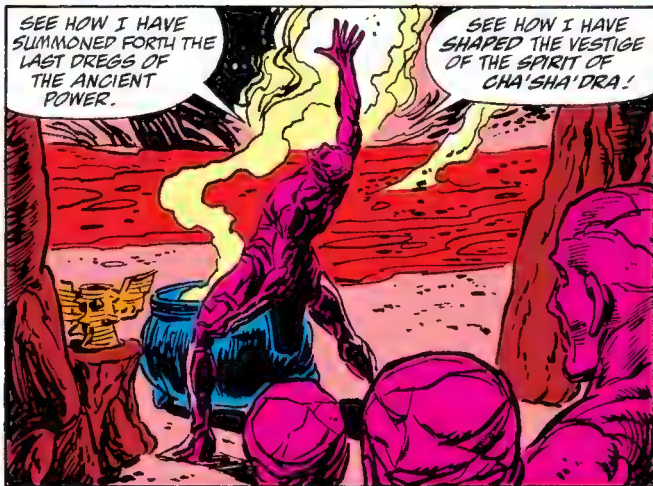
THE DARKNESS CLOSES. THE FINAL DARKNESS.

UPON MY ACTIONS HERE MUST HANG THE FATE OF ALL MY RACE!



HEAR ME THEN, ALL YOU GODS OF THE NETHERWORLD!

HEAR THE VOICE OF JINKU AS IT ECHOES IN THE VAULT OF MAKING!



SEE HOW I HAVE SUMMONED FORTH THE LAST DRESS OF THE ANCIENT POWER.

SEE HOW I HAVE SHAPED THE VESTIGE OF THE SPIRIT OF CHA'SHA'DRA!



THOUGH OUR CREATOR IS LOST TO US...

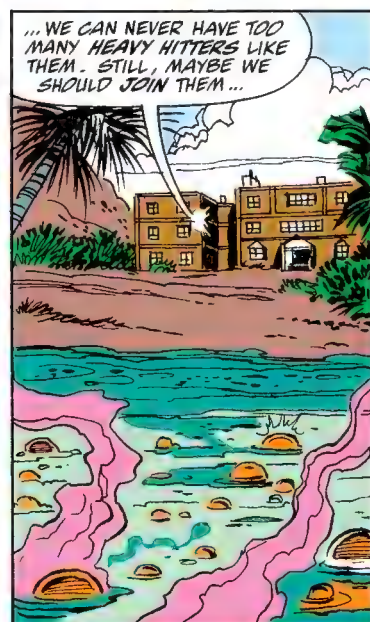
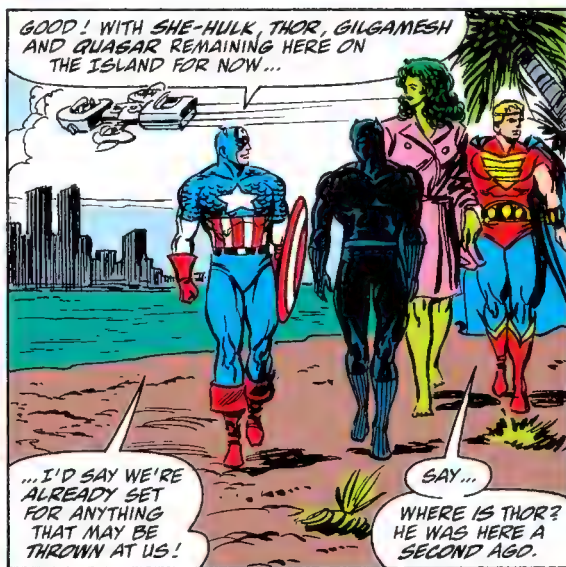
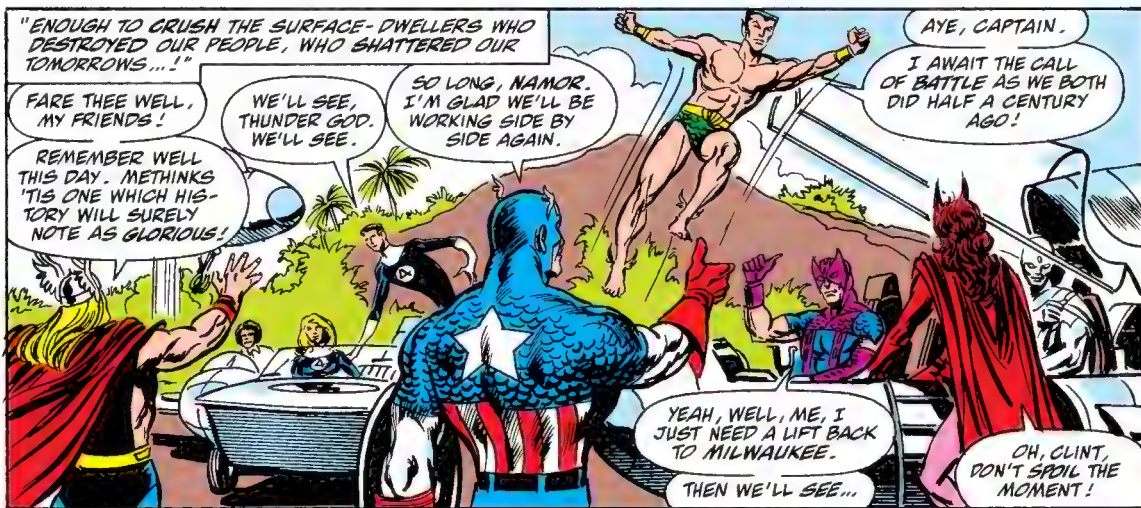
...THOUGH OUR PEOPLE HAVE ALL BUT VANISHED...

ENOUGH OF THE FORCE THAT BROUGHT US FORTH IN THE DIM, DISTANT DREAMTIME OF THE WORLD.

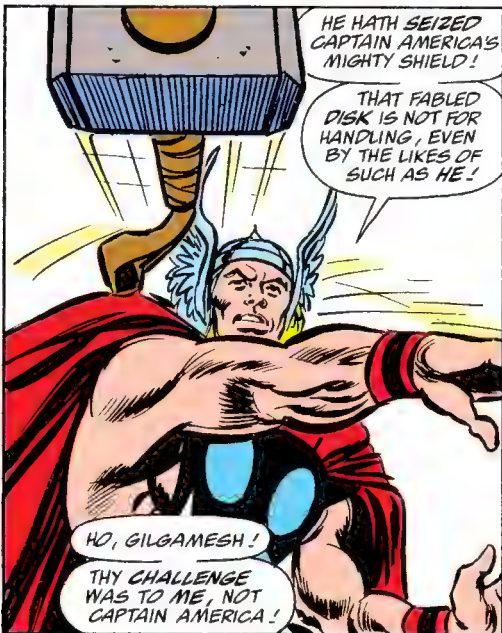
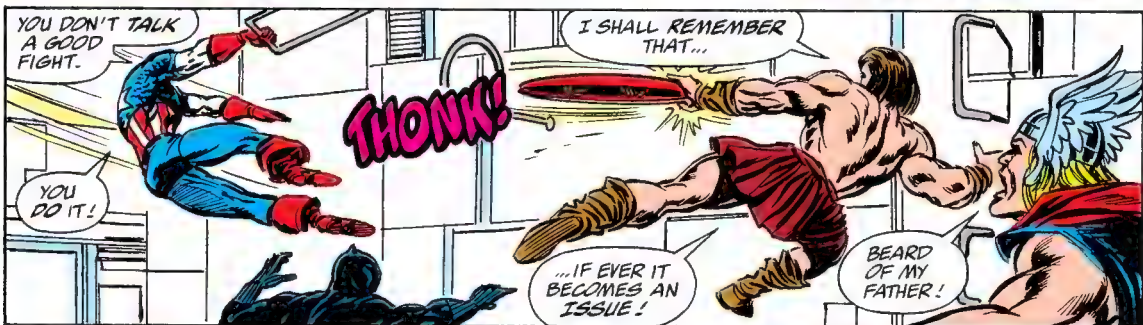
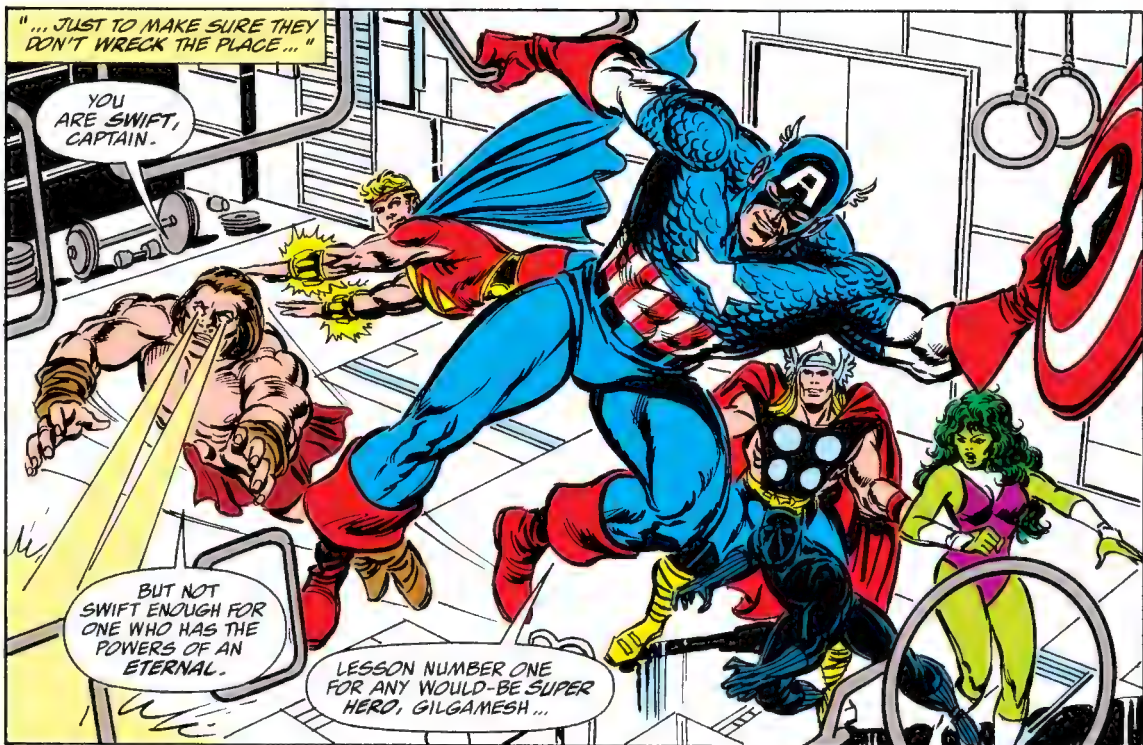
ENOUGH TO BRING US FORTH ONCE MORE!

...ENOUGH OF THE POWER REMAINS.

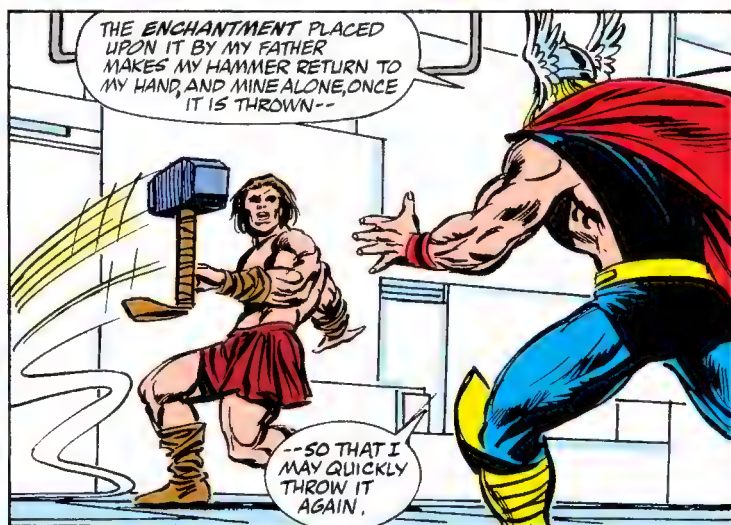
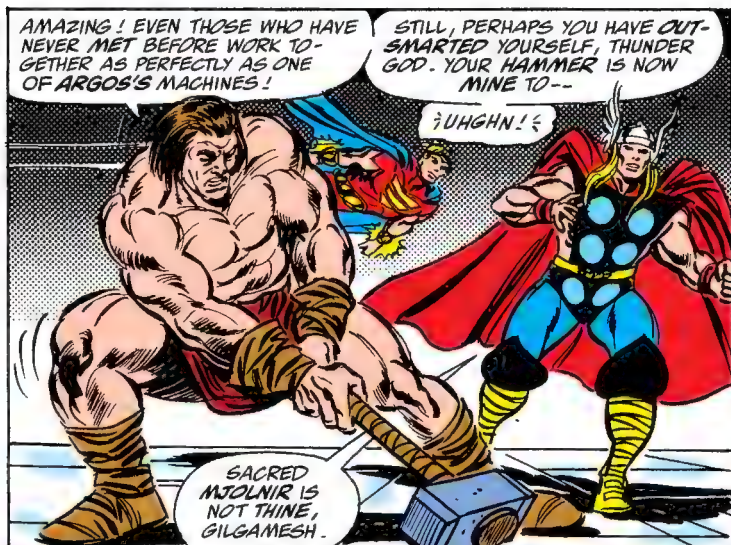
















**BWONNING!**



WOW! THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT KNOCKED ME OVER!

EVEN THOUGH CAP'S SHIELD ABSORBS ALL FORCE DIRECTED AGAINST IT!

THAT'S SOME MALLET YOU SLING, THOR!



ER... SORRY ABOUT THAT, SHE-HULK. GUESS I JUST GOT... CAUGHT UP IN THE EXCITEMENT.

THAT'S THE KIND OF CARELESSNESS THAT COULD GET SOMEONE KILLED IN A REAL HAZARD SITUATION, QUASAR.



YOU MAY BE A TRAINED **SHIELD AGENT**, BUT YOU'RE NEW TO THE AVENGERS, QUASAR. JOIN ME LATER, AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO RUN YOU THROUGH A FEW DRILLS TO SHARPEN YOUR COMBAT SENSE.

THANKS, CAPTAIN. I APPRECIATE IT.

GO EASY ON HIM THOUGH, CAP. WE WERE ALL YOUNG ONCE...



AND, ANYWAY, HE'S GOT CUTE DIMPLES.

...SHE-HULK...

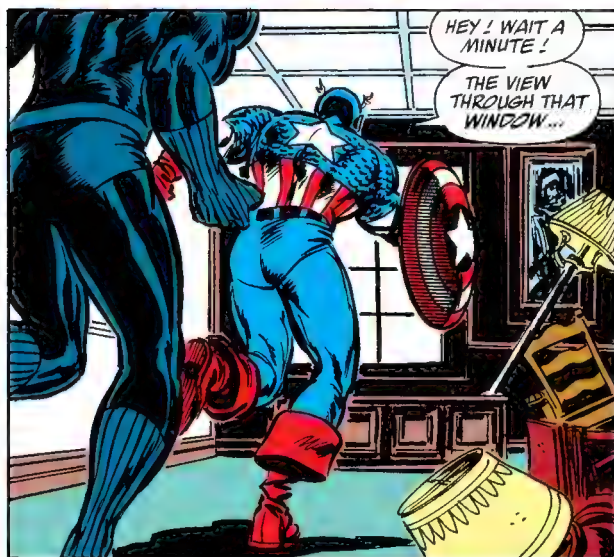
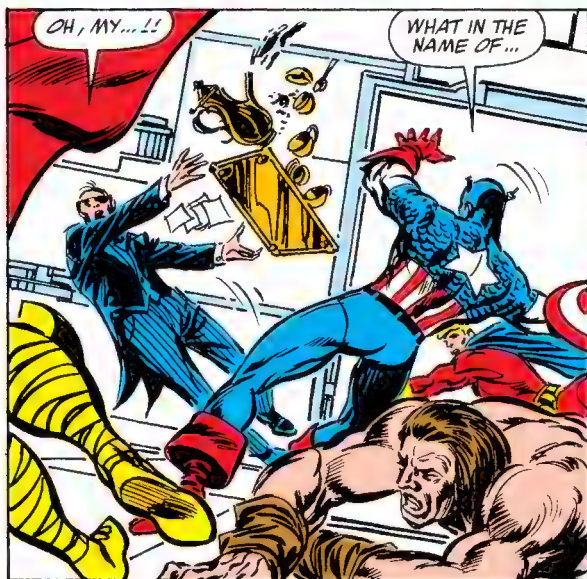
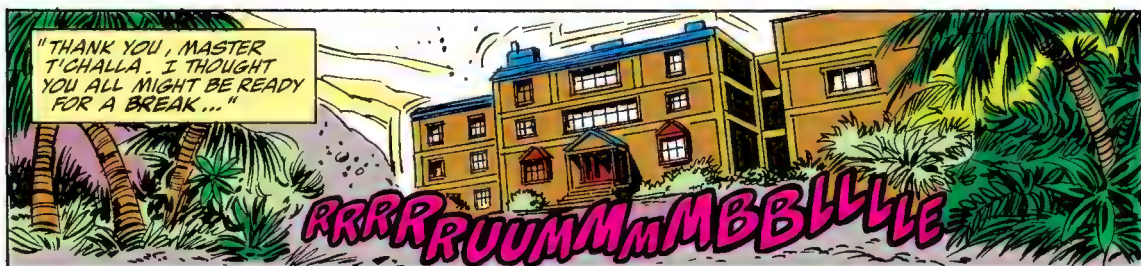
I PRESUME FROM THE ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE THAT THE CURRENT TRAINING SESSION IS DONE?

WOULD ANY OF YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA AND BISCUITS?

THAT SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL, JARVIS!

AS ALWAYS, YOUR TIMING IS IMPECCABLE!

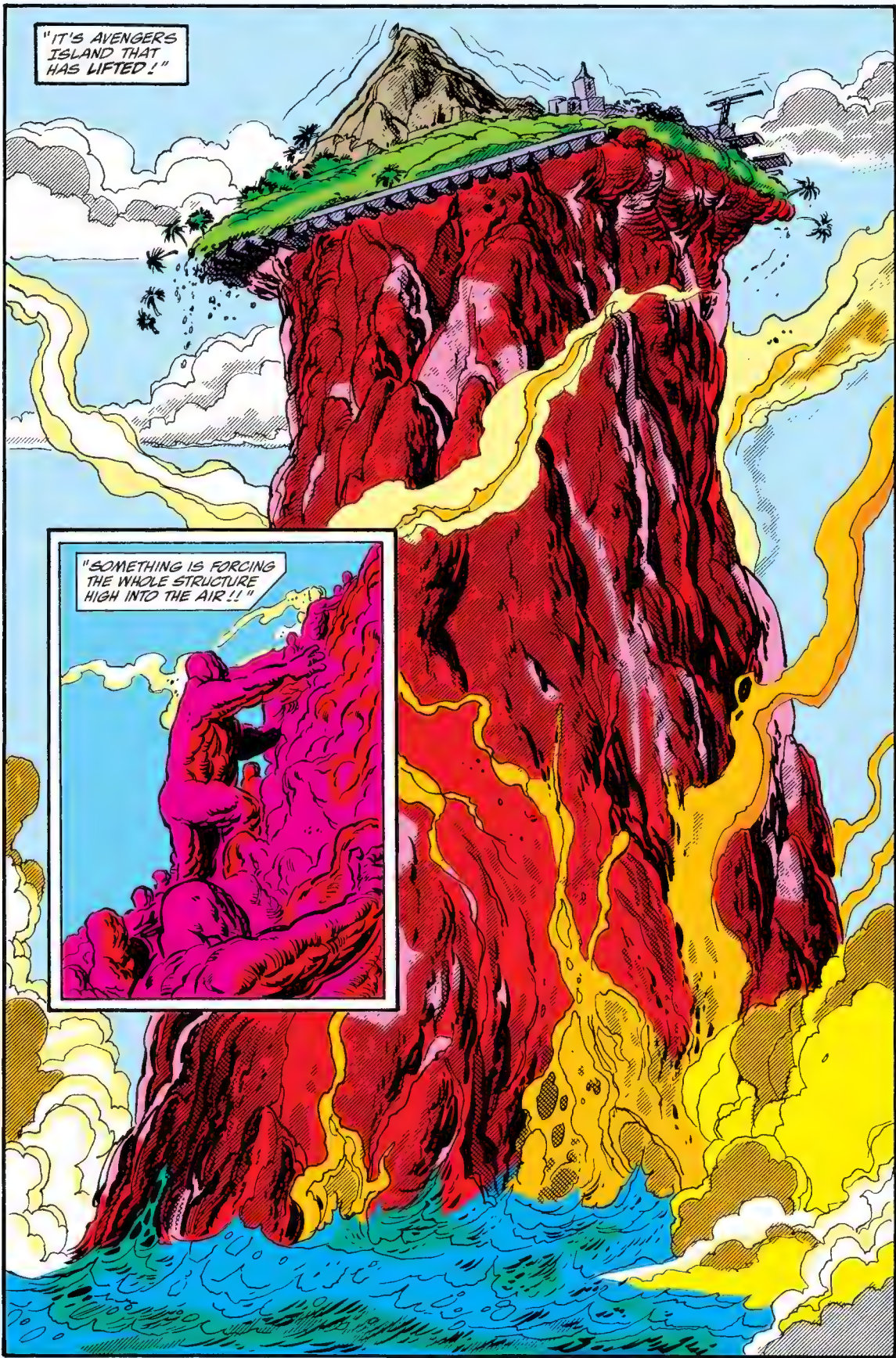




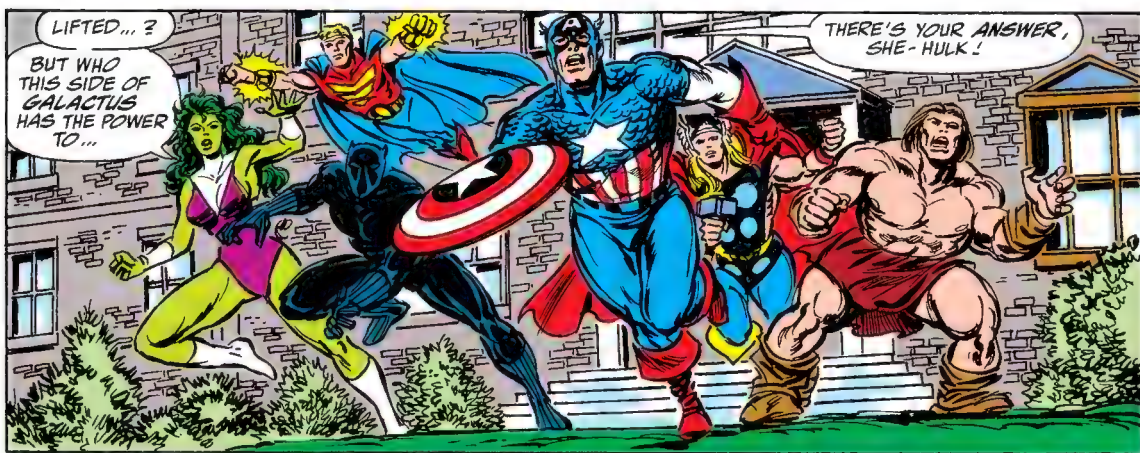


"IT'S AVENGERS  
ISLAND THAT  
HAS LIFTED!"

"SOMETHING IS FORCING  
THE WHOLE STRUCTURE  
HIGH INTO THE AIR!!"

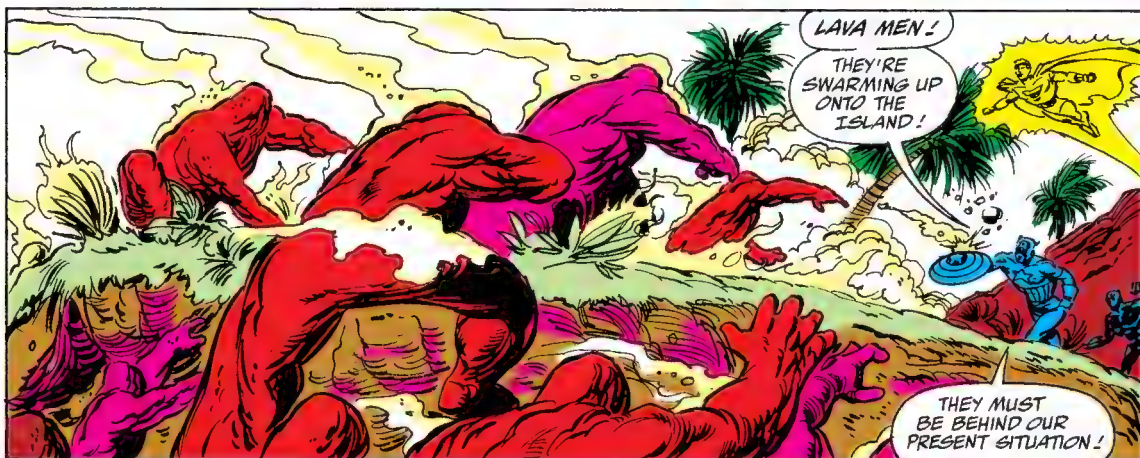






LIFTED... ?  
BUT WHO THIS SIDE OF GALACTUS HAS THE POWER TO...

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, SHE-HULK!



LAVA MEN!  
THEY'RE SWARMING UP ONTO THE ISLAND!

THEY MUST BE BEHIND OUR PRESENT SITUATION!



LAVA MEN... ??

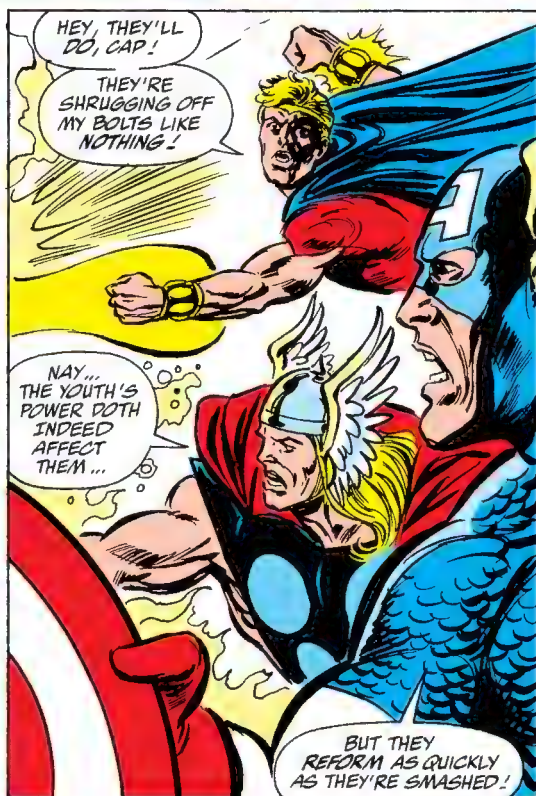
AYE, YOUNG ONE!

SOME OF THE FIRST FOES THE AVENGERS DID FACE!

BUT THESE ARE DIFFERENT!

LOOK AT THEM, ASSGARDIAN! THEY'RE FACELESS. THEIR MOVEMENTS STIFF, ROBOTIC...

THEY CAN'T BE REAL LAVA MEN!



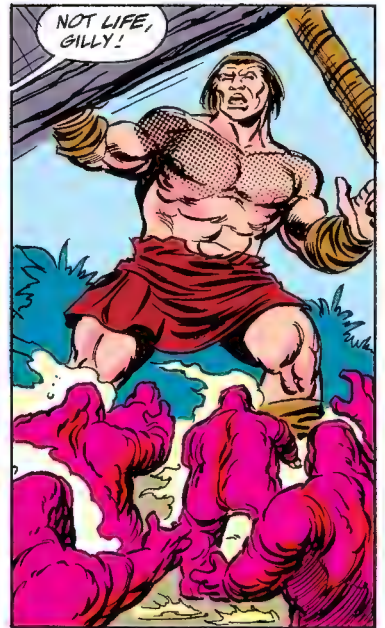
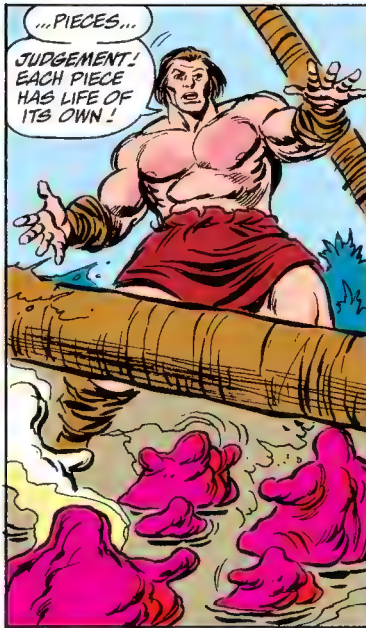
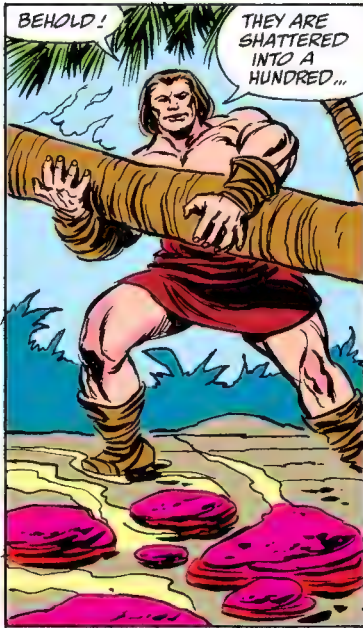
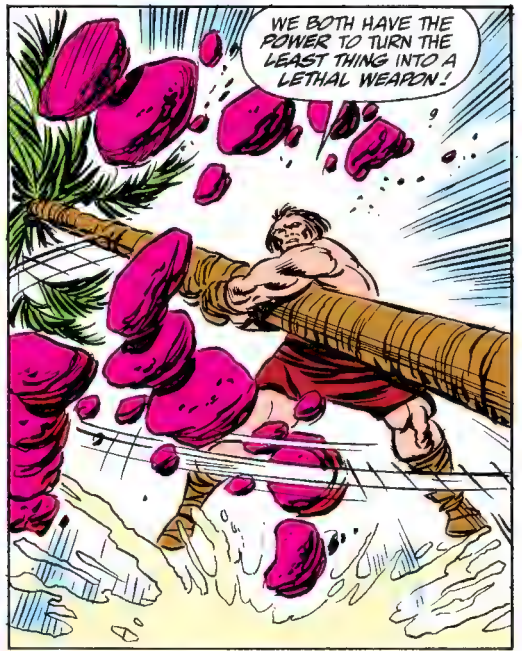
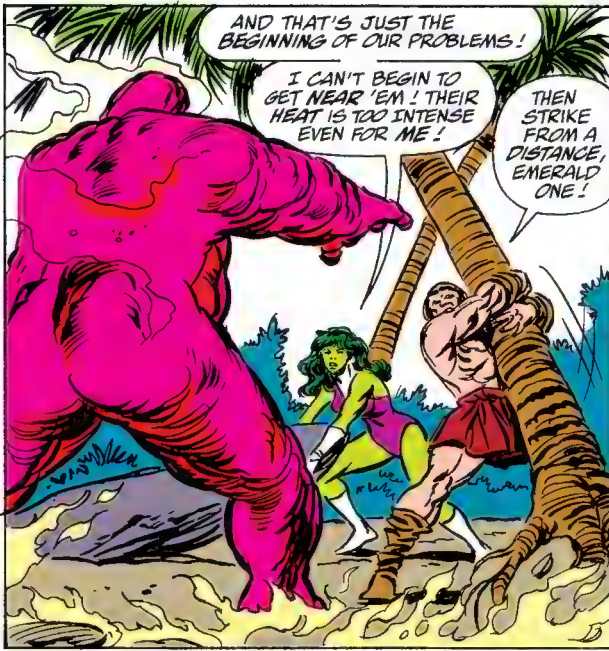
HEY, THEY'LL DO, CAP!

THEY'RE SHRUGGING OFF MY BOLTS LIKE NOTHING!

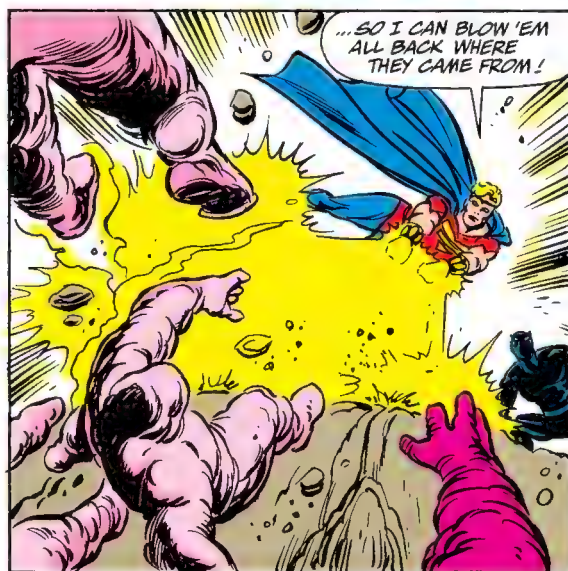
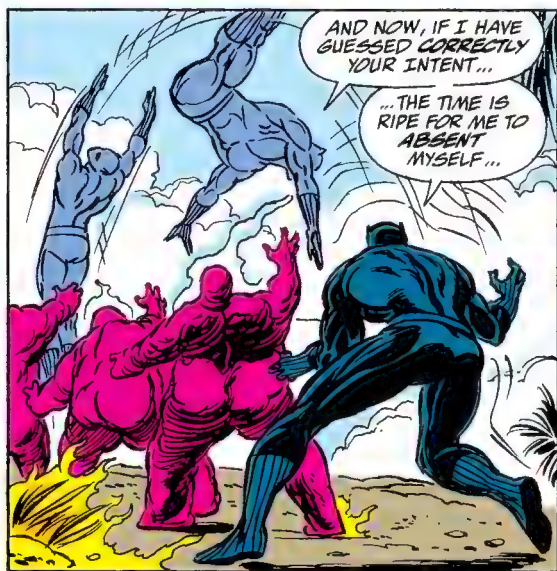
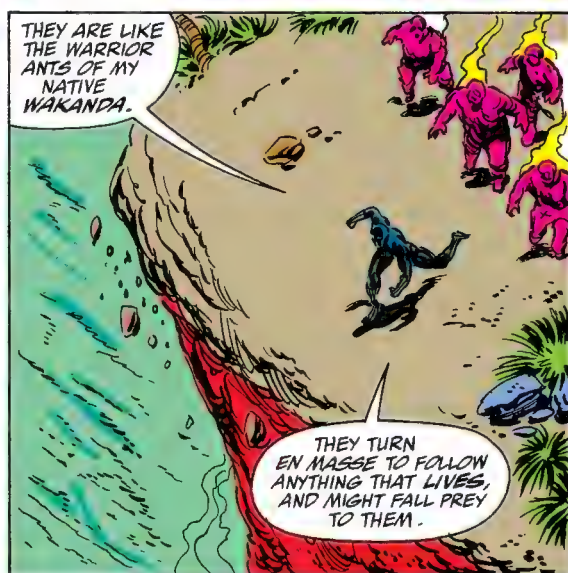
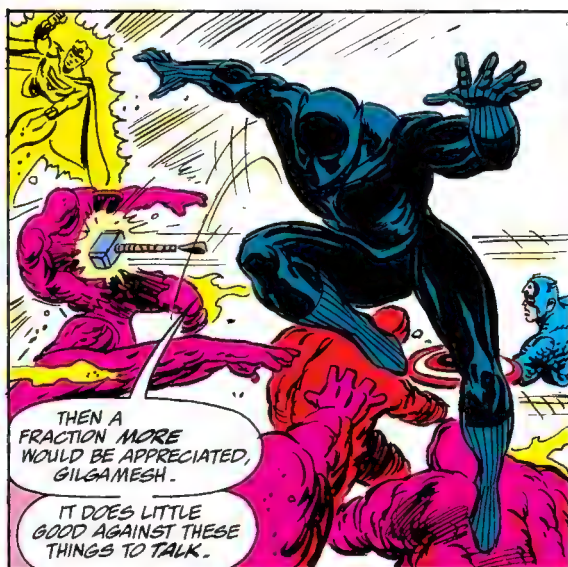
NAY... THE YOUTH'S POWER DOOTH INDEED AFFECT THEM...

BUT THEY REFORM AS QUICKLY AS THEY'RE SMASHED!

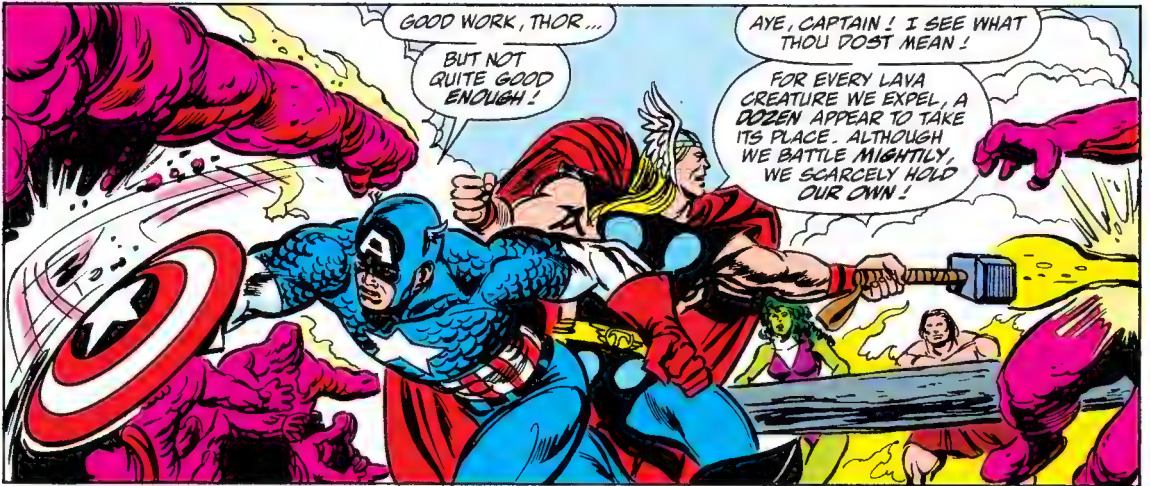
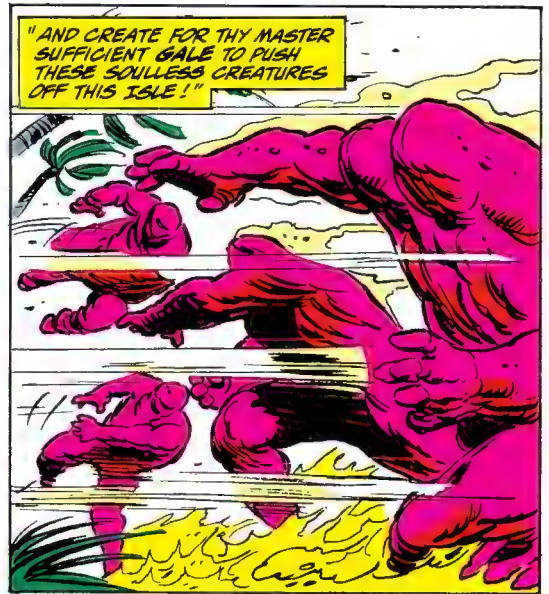
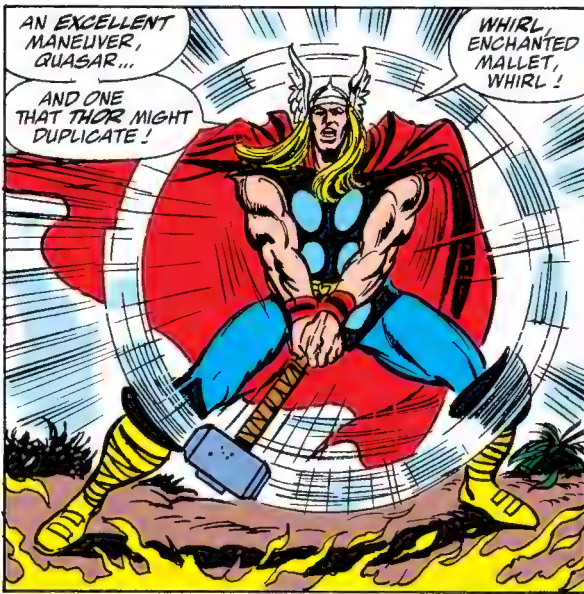




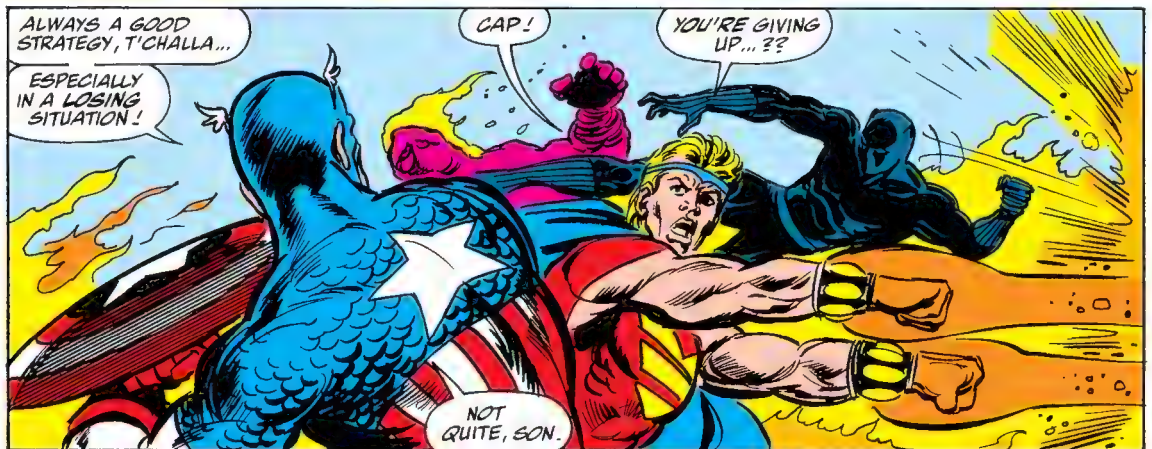




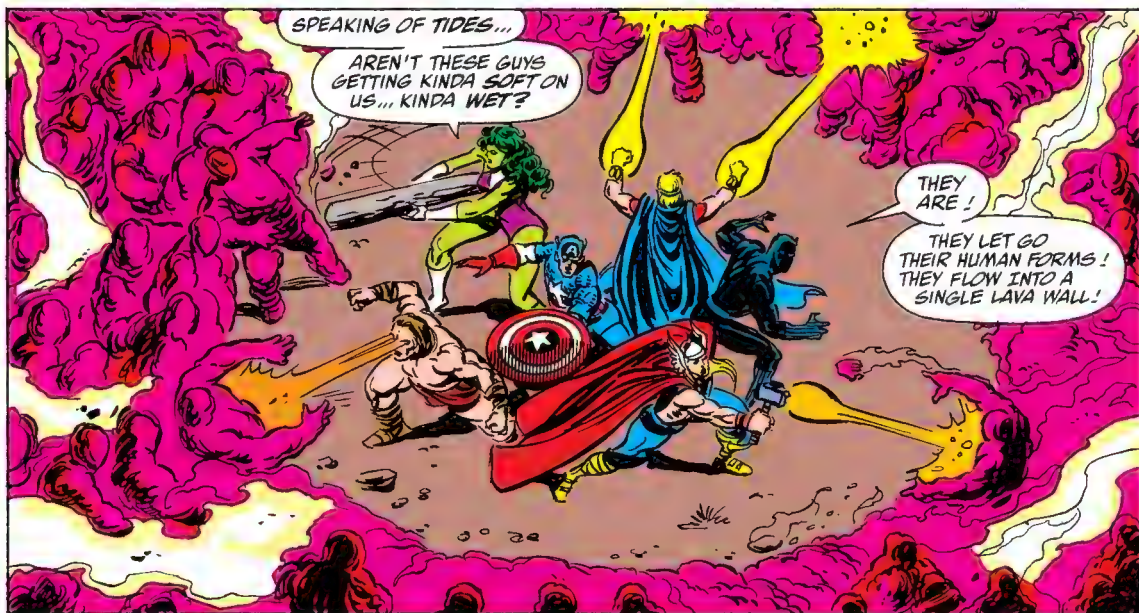
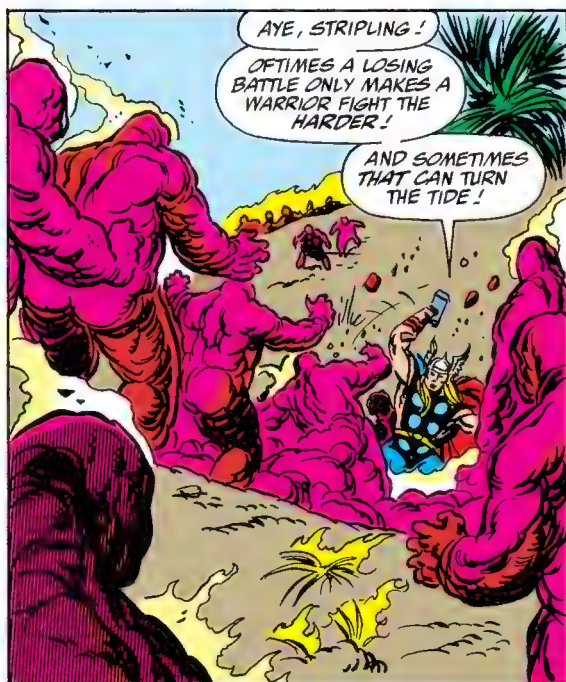
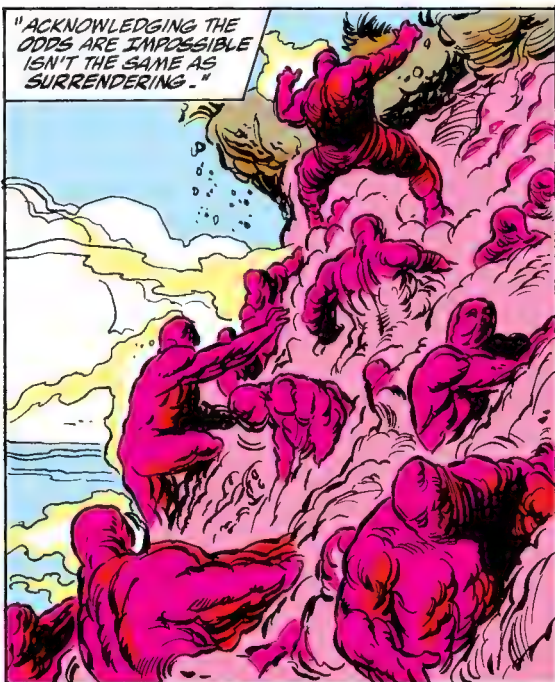




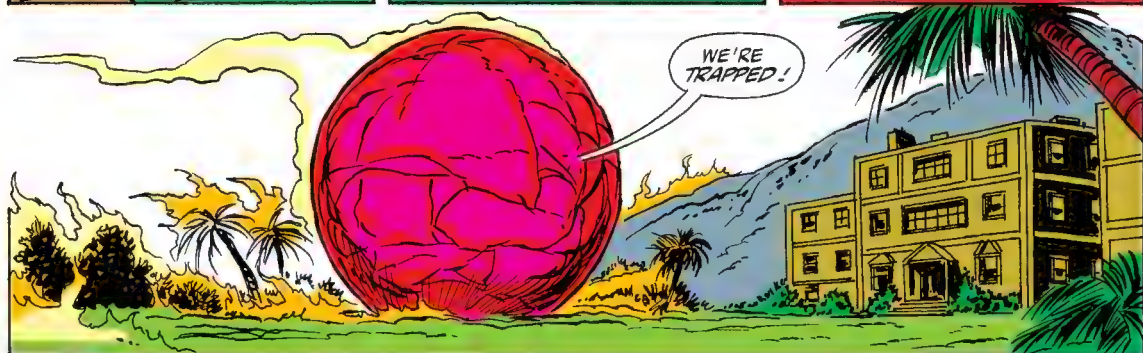
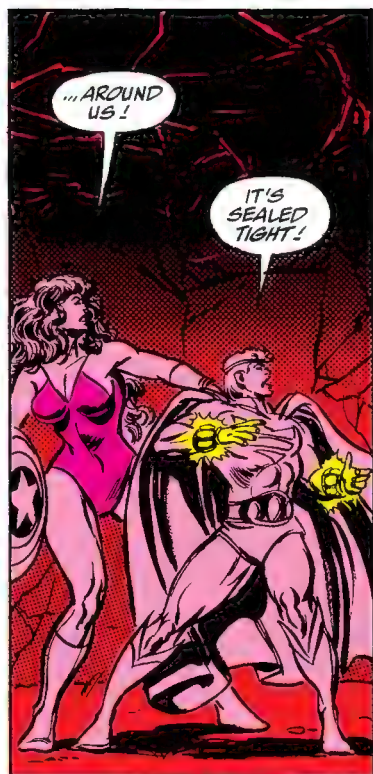
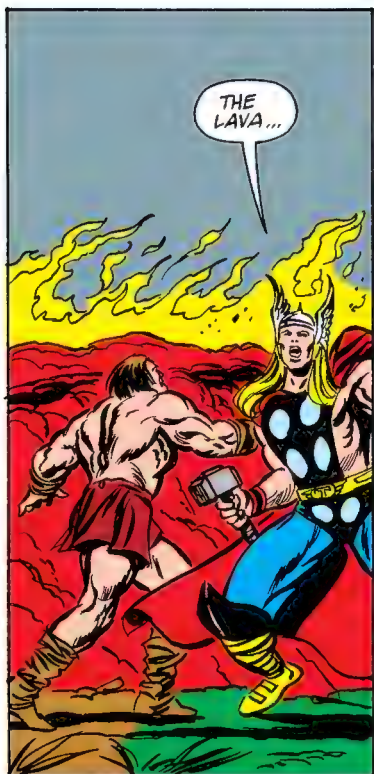




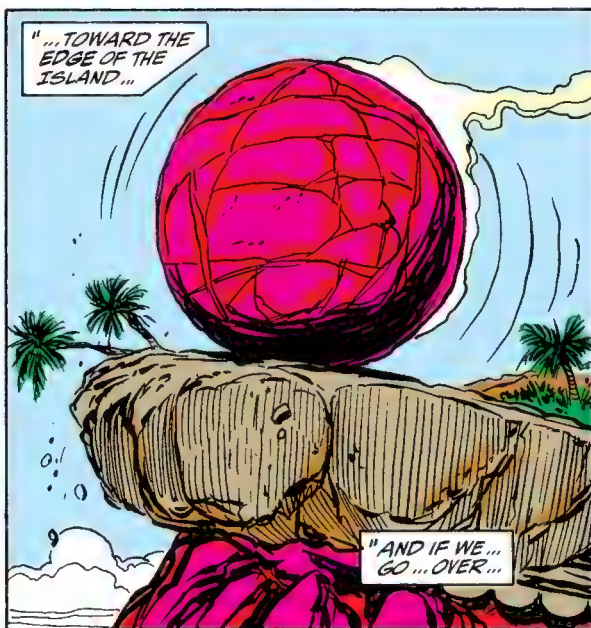
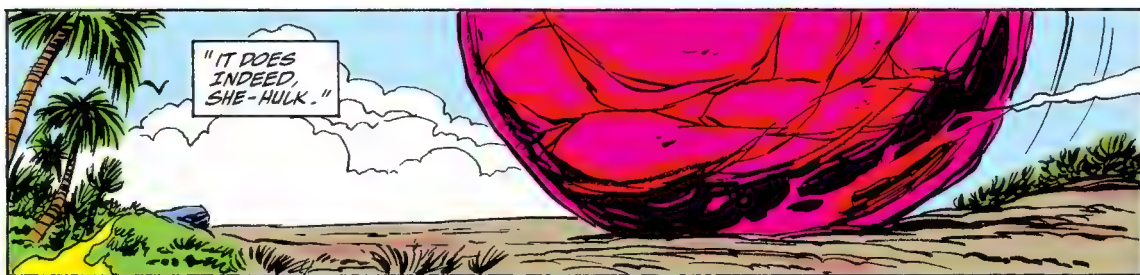
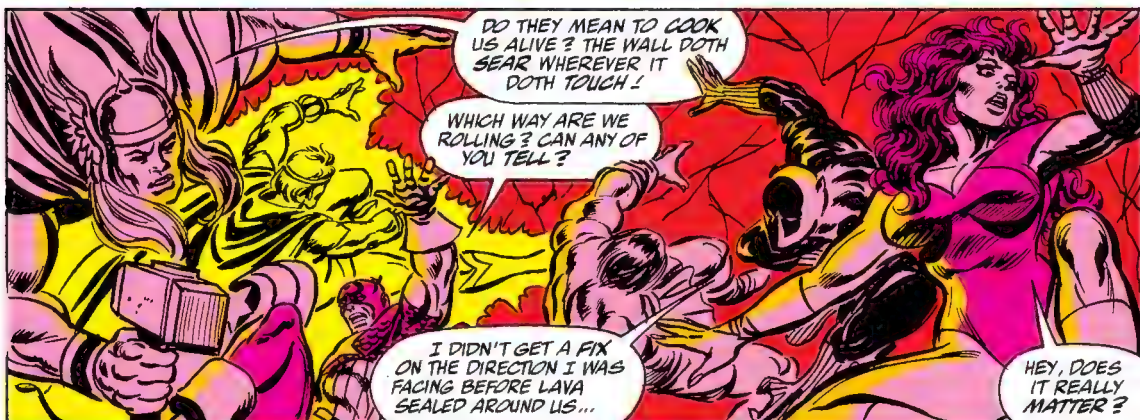
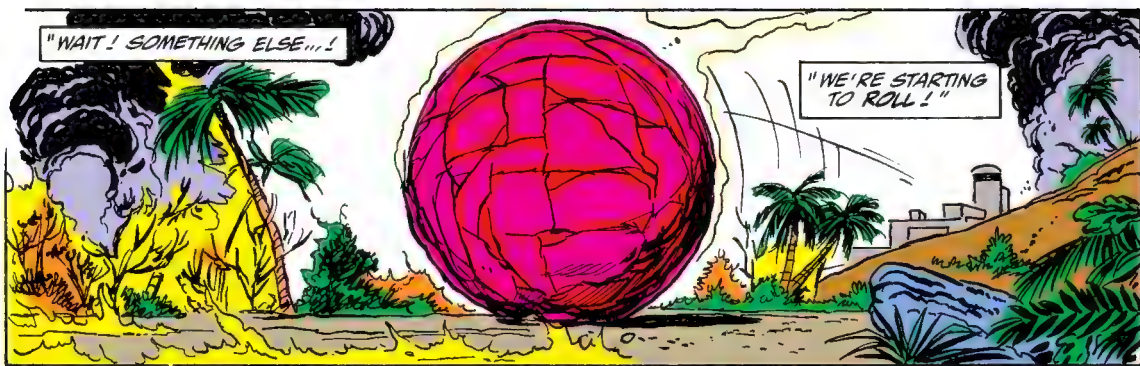




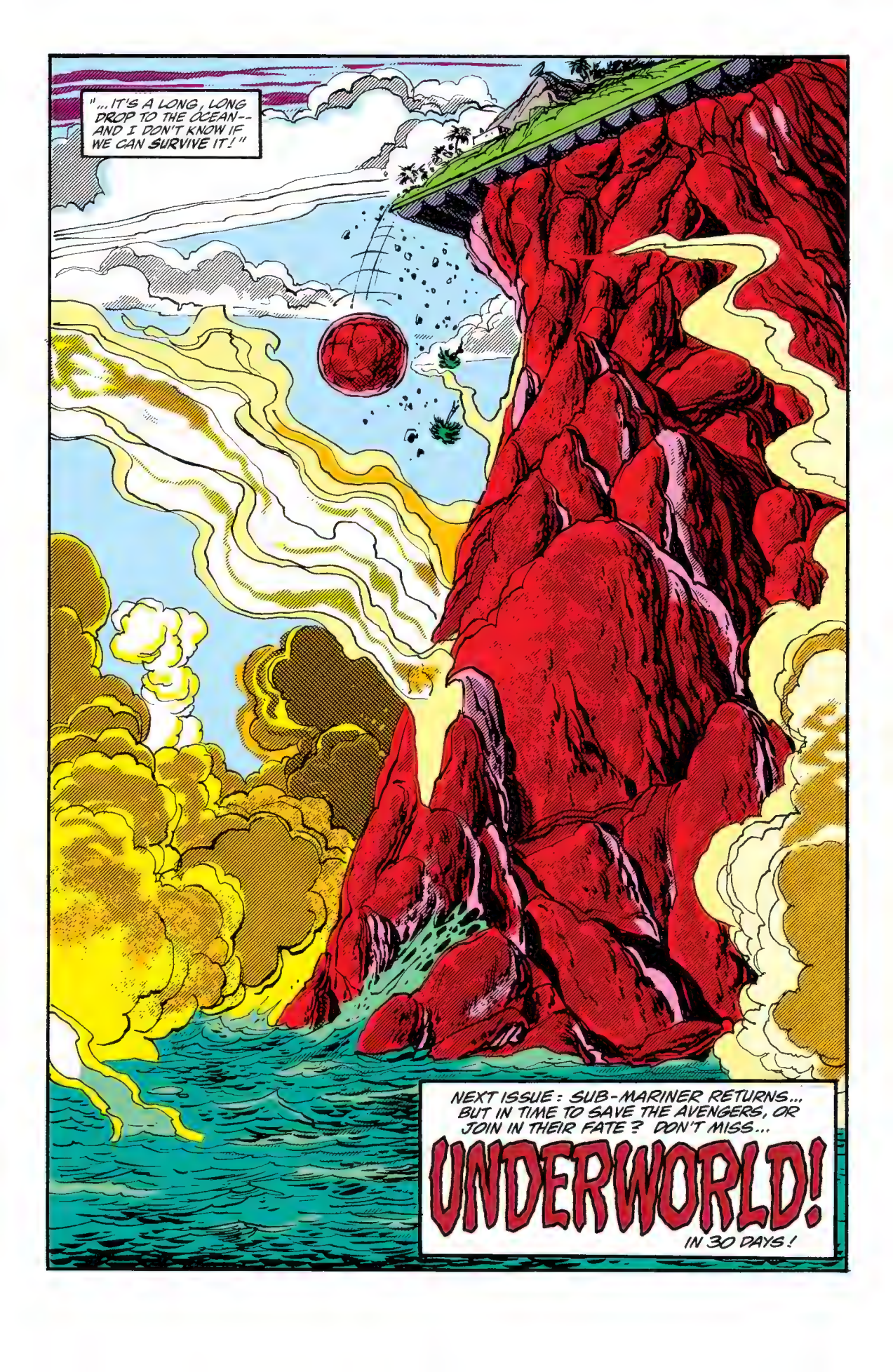












"...IT'S A LONG, LONG  
DROP TO THE OCEAN--  
AND I DON'T KNOW IF  
WE CAN SURVIVE IT!"

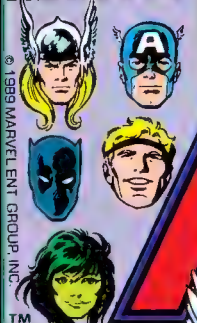
NEXT ISSUE: SUB-MARINER RETURNS...  
BUT IN TIME TO SAVE THE AVENGERS, OR  
JOIN IN THEIR FATE? DON'T MISS...

**UNDERWORLD!**

IN 30 DAYS!



MARVEL®



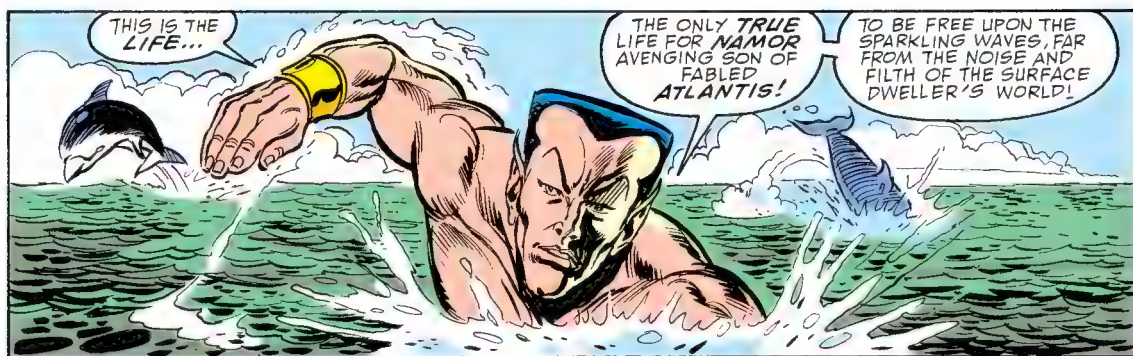
\$1.00 US  
\$1.25 CAN  
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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# AVENGERS®



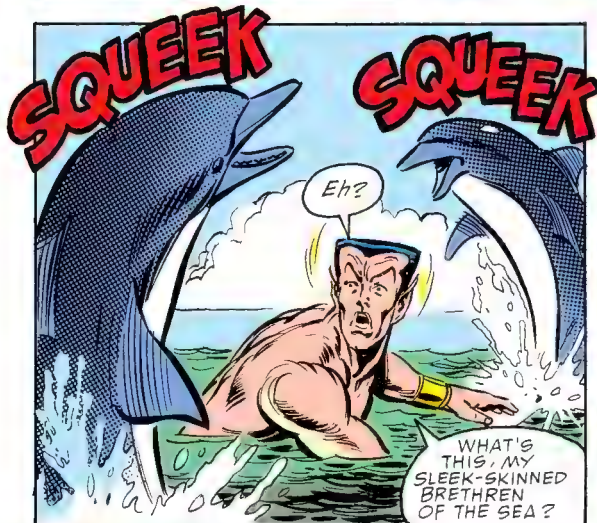




THIS IS THE  
LIFE...

THE ONLY *TRUE*  
LIFE FOR *NAMOR*  
AVENGING SON OF  
FABLED  
ATLANTIS!

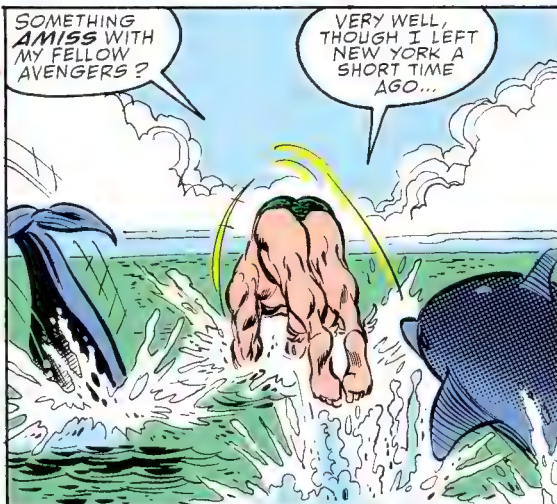
TO BE FREE UPON THE  
SPARKLING WAVES, FAR  
FROM THE NOISE AND  
FILTH OF THE SURFACE  
DWELLER'S WORLD!



**SQUEEK**

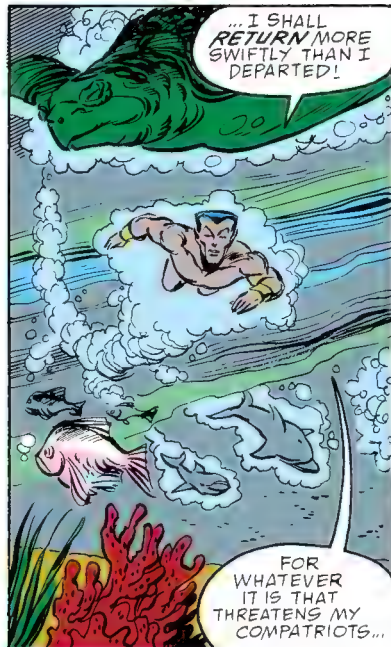
Eh?

WHAT'S  
THIS, MY  
SLEEK-SKINNED  
BRETHREN  
OF THE SEA?



SOMETHING  
*AMISS* WITH  
MY FELLOW  
AVENGERS?

VERY WELL,  
THOUGH I LEFT  
NEW YORK A  
SHORT TIME  
AGO...



... I SHALL  
*RETURN* MORE  
SWIFTLY THAN I  
DEPARTED!

FOR  
WHATEVER  
IT IS THAT  
THREATENS MY  
COMPATRIOTS...



... IT SEEMS BEYOND  
EVEN THE COMPLEX  
*LANGUAGE* OF  
MY DOLPHIN  
FRIENDS TO  
DESCRIBE.

HMMM...

I SWIM  
NOW INTO  
*TEMPERATE*  
CLIMES,  
BUT THE  
WATERS GROW  
AS WARM AS  
THE DISTANT  
*TROPICS*.

WHAT  
CAN BE...

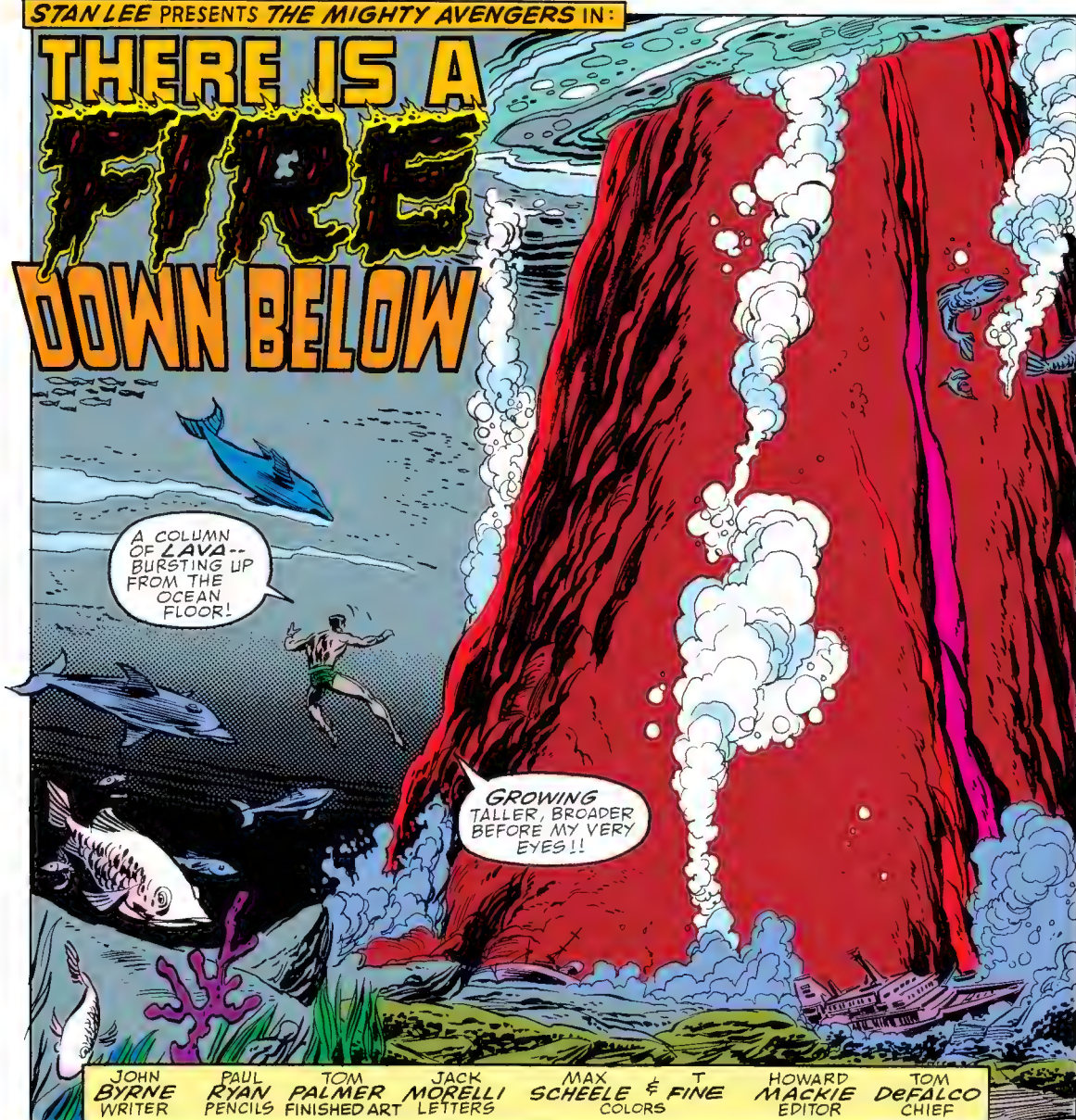


GREAT  
NEPTUNE'S  
TRIDENT!!

WHAT  
MADNESS IS  
*THIS* ?!



# THERE IS A FIRE DOWN BELOW



A COLUMN  
OF LAVA--  
BURSTING UP  
FROM THE  
OCEAN  
FLOOR!

GROWING  
TALLER, BROADER  
BEFORE MY VERY  
EYES!!

JOHN  
BYRNE  
WRITER

PAUL  
RYAN  
PENCILS

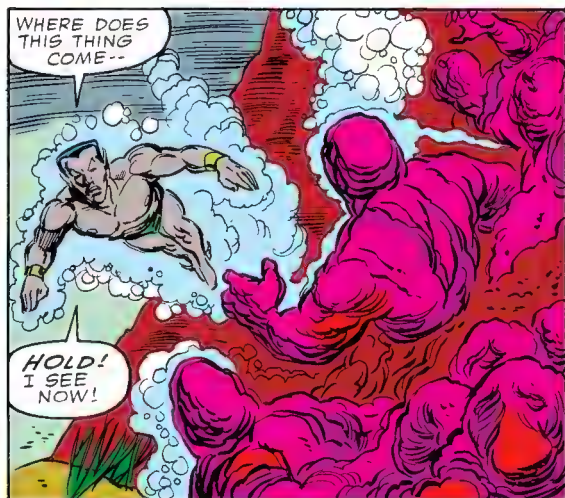
TOM  
PALMER  
FINISHED ART

JACK  
MORELLI  
LETTERS

MAX  
SCHEELE & FINE  
COLORS

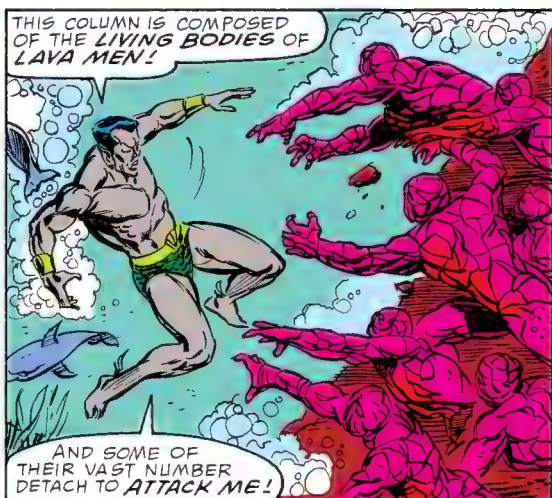
HOWARD  
MACKIE  
EDITOR

TOM  
DEFALCO  
CHIEF



WHERE DOES  
THIS THING  
COME--

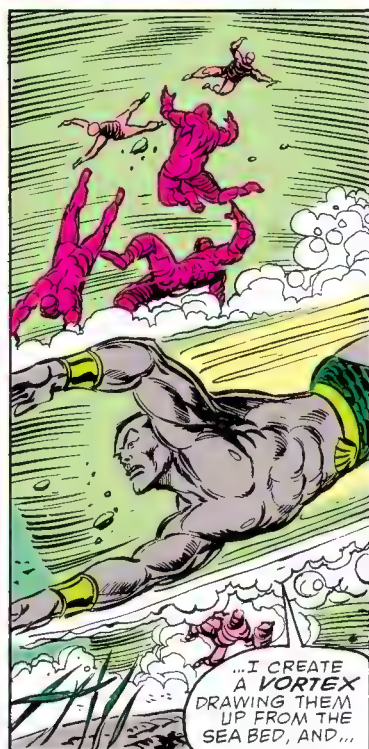
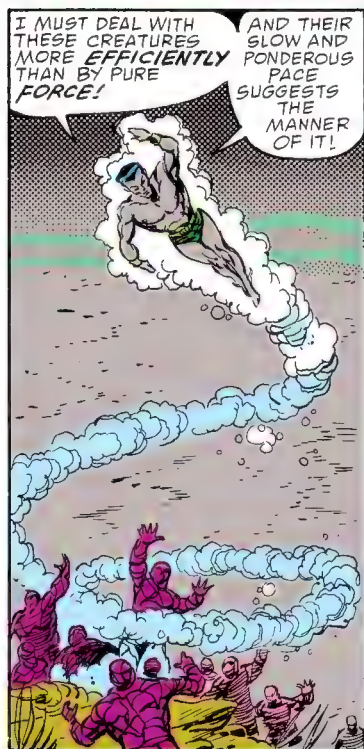
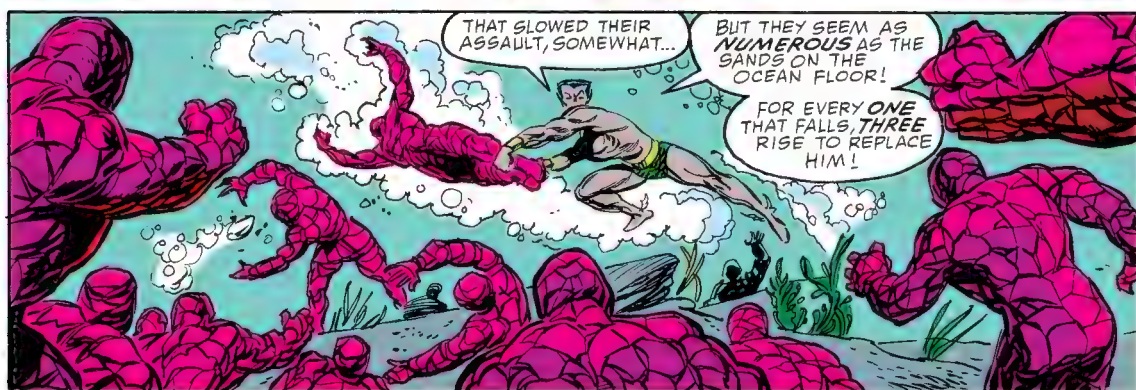
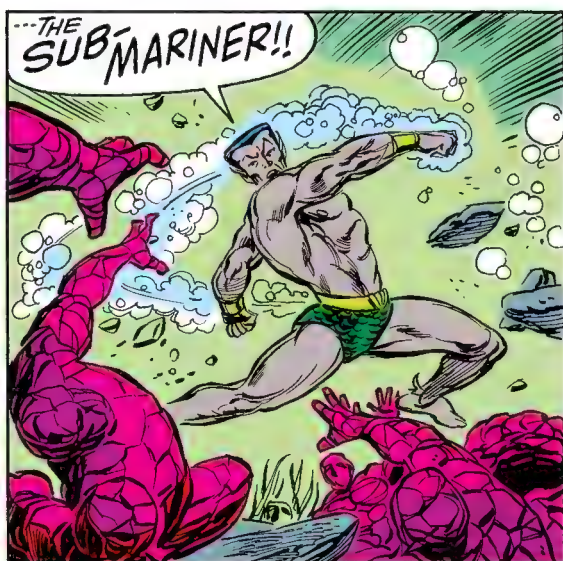
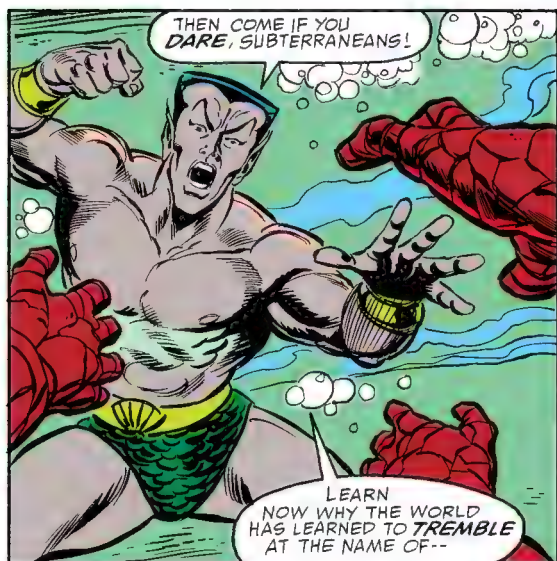
HOLD!  
I SEE  
NOW!



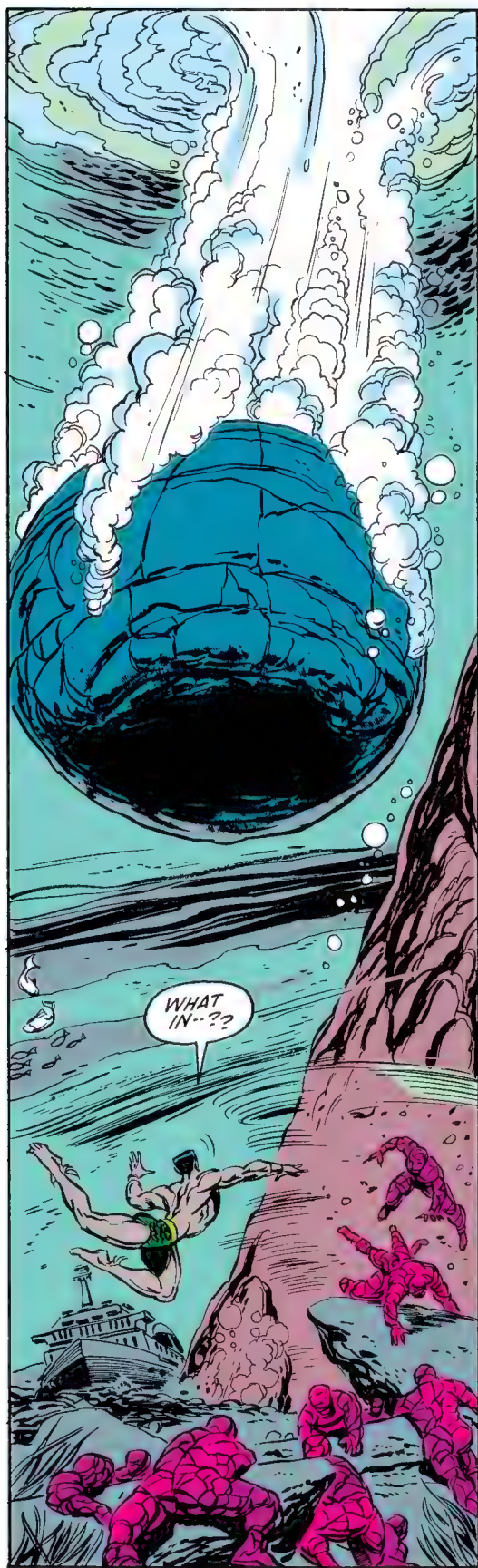
THIS COLUMN IS COMPOSED  
OF THE LIVING BODIES OF  
LAVA MEN!

AND SOME OF  
THEIR VAST NUMBER  
DETACH TO ATTACK ME!

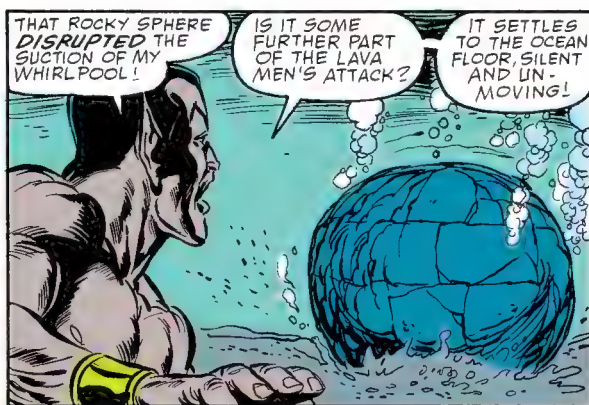








WHAT IN...??



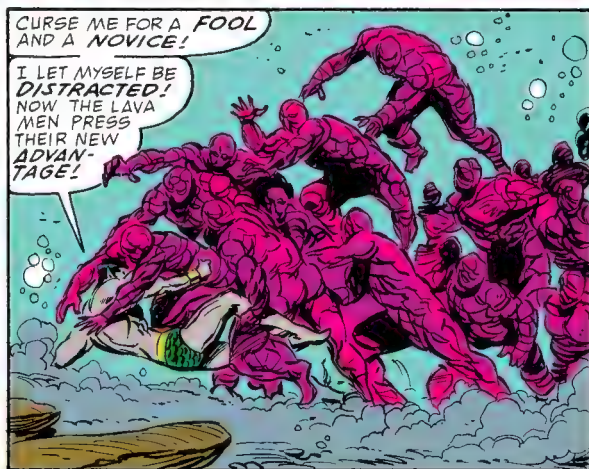
THAT ROCKY SPHERE  
**DISRUPTED** THE  
SUCTION OF MY  
WHIRLPOOL!

IS IT SOME  
FURTHER PART  
OF THE LAVA  
MEN'S ATTACK?

IT SETTLES  
TO THE OCEAN  
FLOOR, SILENT  
AND UN-  
MOVING!

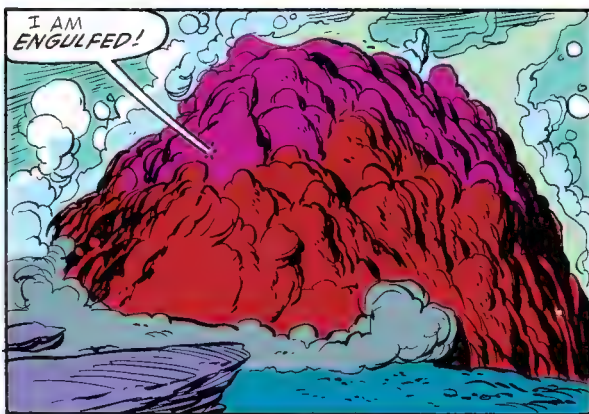


Eh??



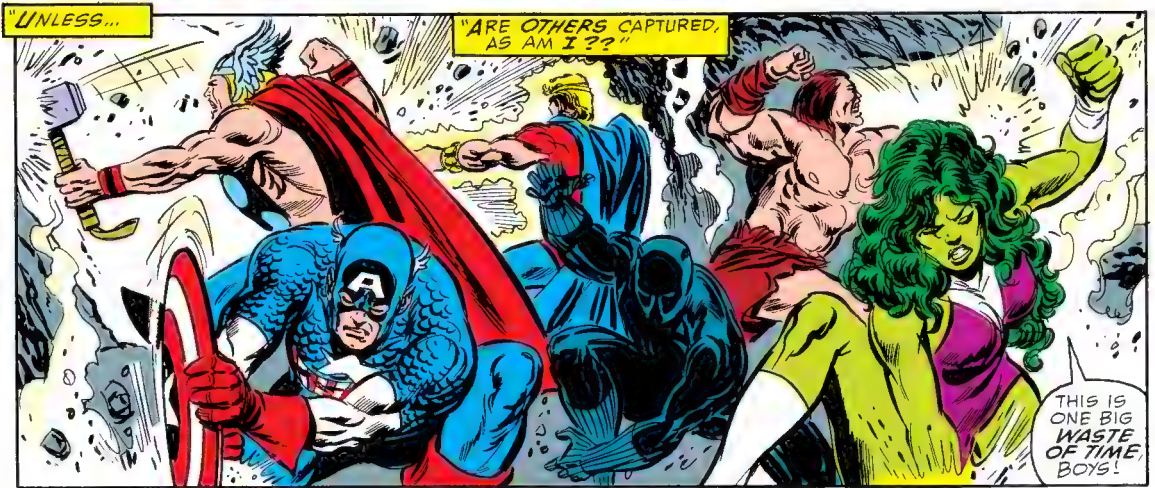
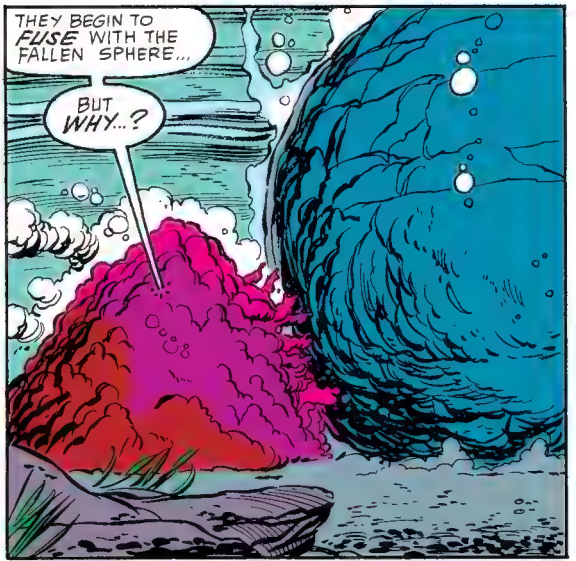
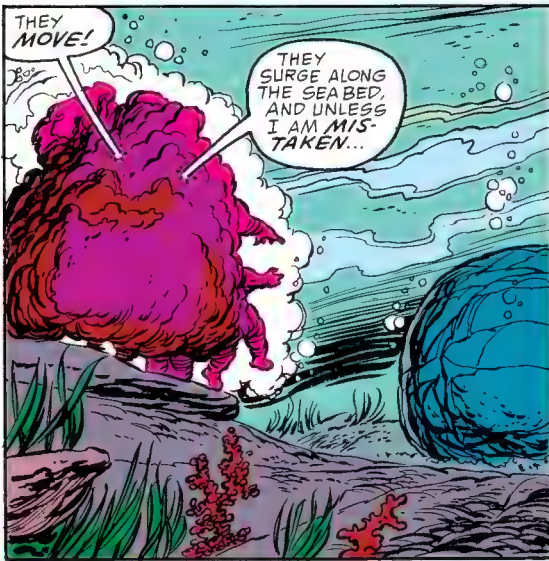
CURSE ME FOR A FOOL  
AND A NOVICE!

I LET MYSELF BE  
**DISTRACTED!**  
NOW THE LAVA  
MEN PRESS  
THEIR NEW  
**ADVANTAGE!**

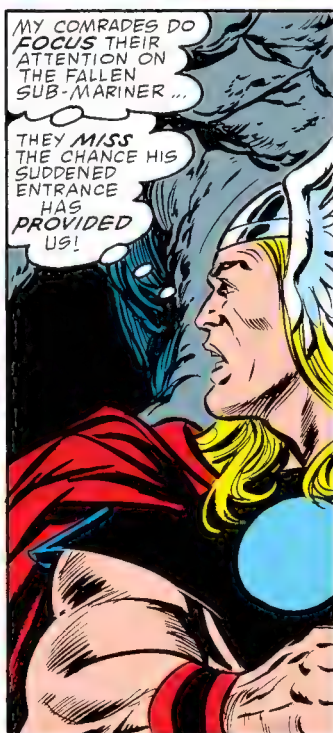
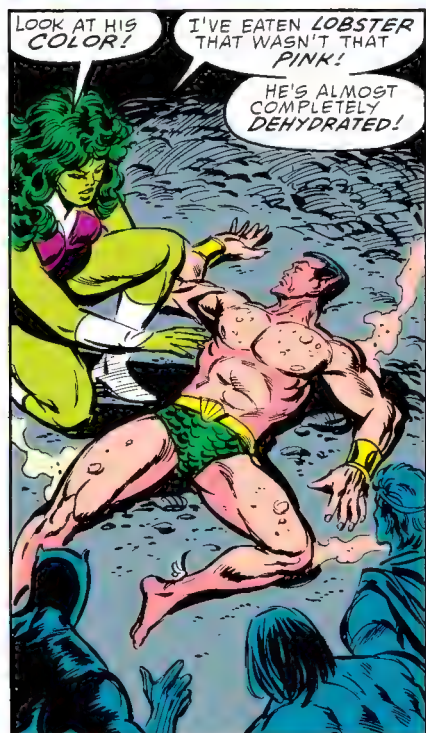
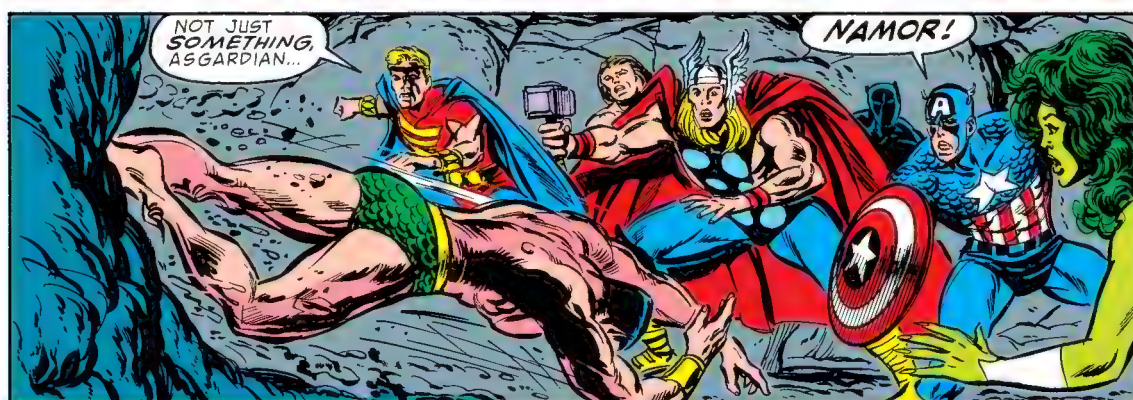
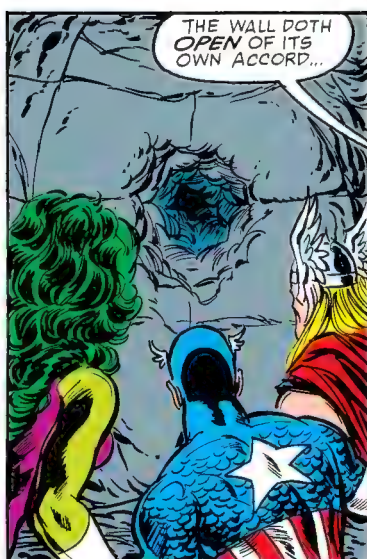


I AM  
**ENGULFED!**

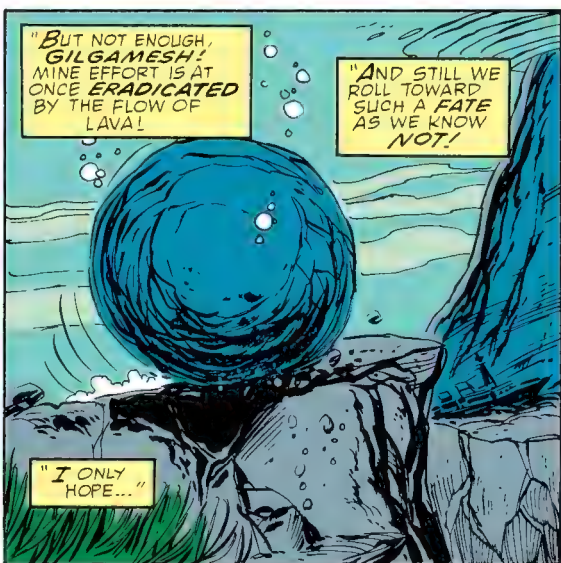
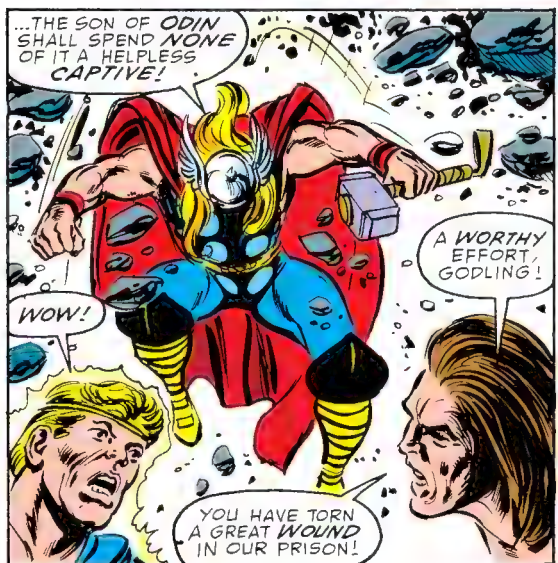
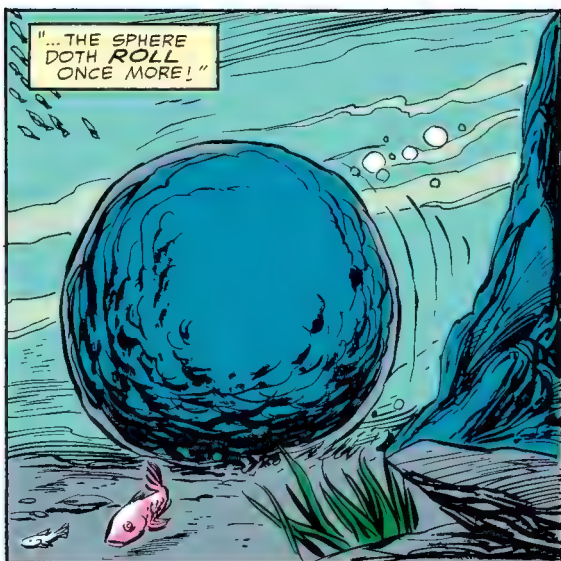
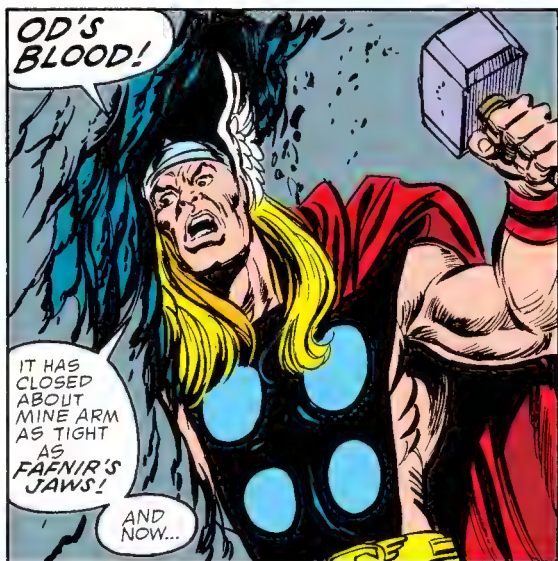




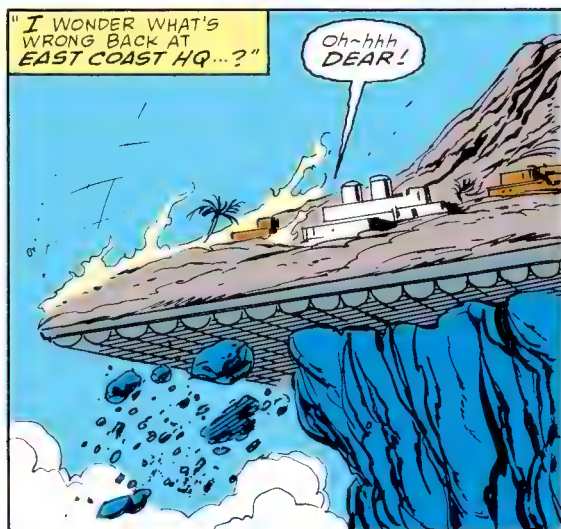
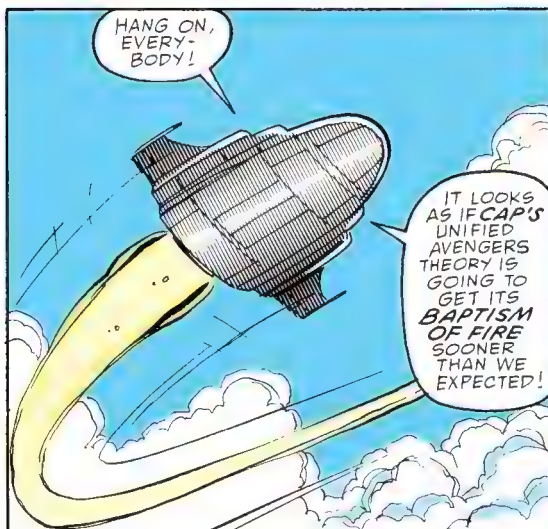
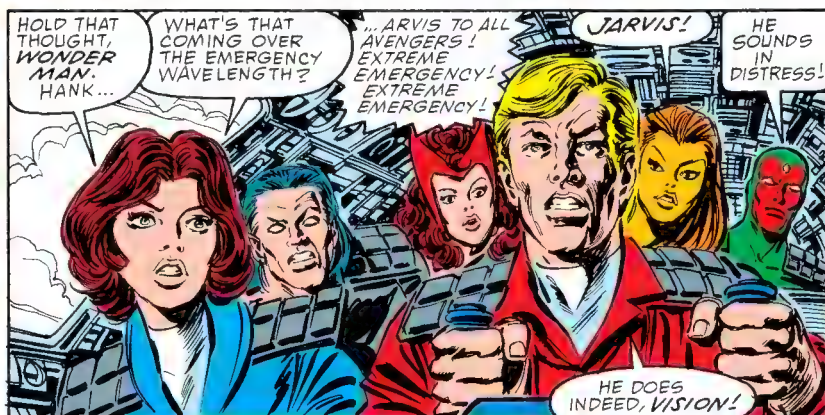
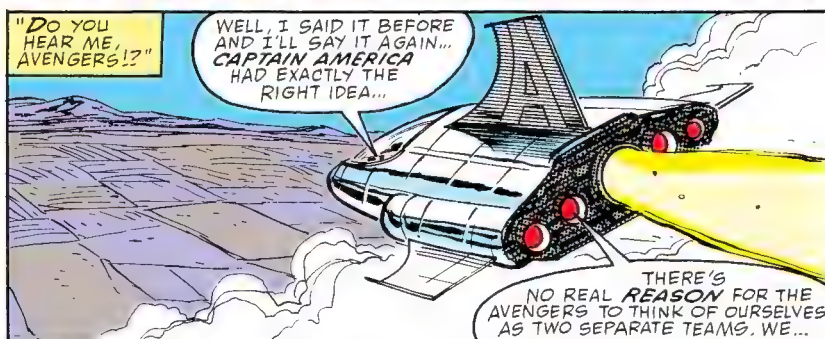
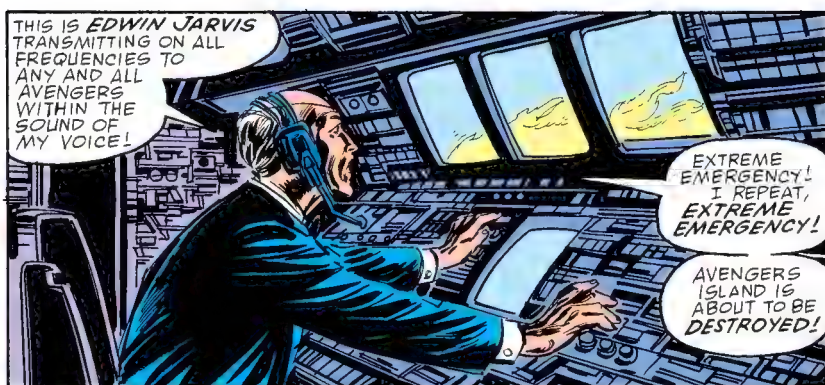
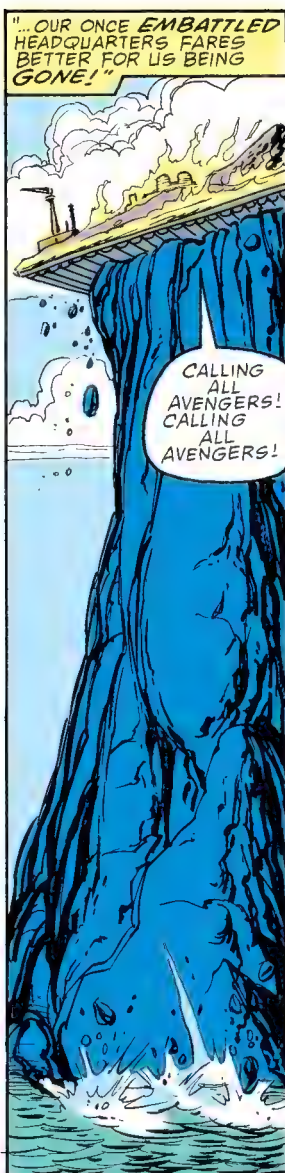




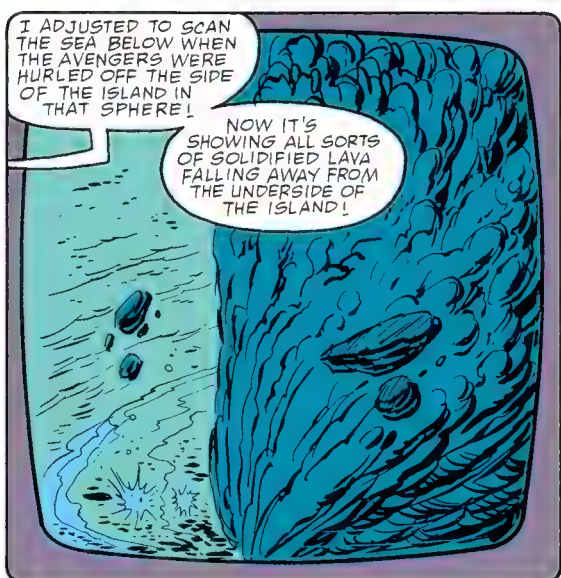
















"Ohhhh... I DO HOPE THE AVENGERS GET BACK SOON!"

WE'VE STOPPED **ROLLING!** WAS IT MY **IMAGINATION** OR DID WE GO THROUGH SEVERAL **PRESSURE** CHANGES ALONG THE WAY?

NO... I FELT... IT... TOO...

YOU... SOUND ABOUT... AS... BAD AS I... **FEEL**, PANTHER...

WHAT'S WITH... GILGAMESH? HE'S JUST... **STANDING** THERE?

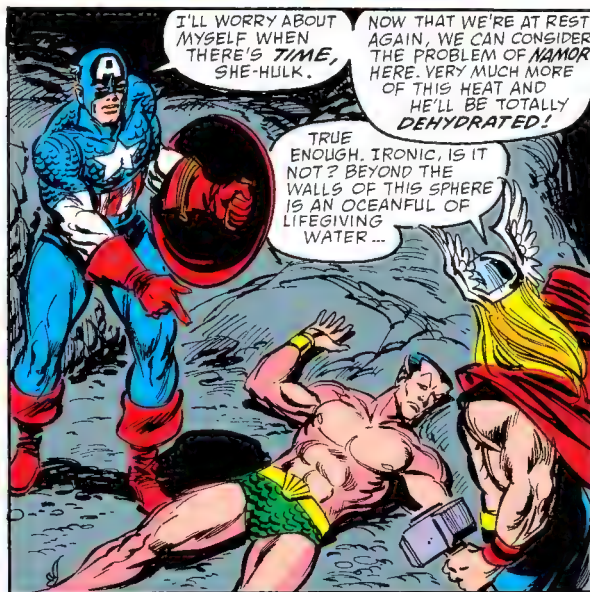
'TIS THE WAY WITH **ETERNALS**. QUASAR...



THOR'S RIGHT. AN ETERNAL IS VIRTUALLY **IMPOSSIBLE** TO DESTROY BECAUSE EACH ONE HAS COMPLETE **CONTROL** OVER THE MOLECULES OF HIS BODY.

BUT, TO RESIST **THIS** HEAT, GILGAMESH MUST BE USING **ALL** HIS CONCENTRATION!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, CAP? YOU AND T'CHALLA DON'T HAVE **SUPER** POWERS BOLSTERING YOU!



I'LL WORRY ABOUT MYSELF WHEN THERE'S **TIME**, SHE-HULK.

NOW THAT WE'RE AT REST AGAIN, WE CAN CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF **HAMOR** HERE. VERY MUCH MORE OF THIS HEAT AND HE'LL BE TOTALLY **DEHYDRATED!**

TRUE ENOUGH. IRONIC, IS IT NOT? BEYOND THE WALLS OF THIS SPHERE IS AN OCEANFUL OF LIFE-GIVING WATER...



IS THERE? I WONDER...

YOU **ALMOST** BROKE THROUGH BEFORE. ARE YOU UP TO TRYING **AGAIN?**

THOR IS EVER READY TO TRY **ANYTHING** AVENGER!



EVEN WHEN, AS WITH THIS...

...EXPERIENCE TELLS US IT BE **FRUITLESS!**



# THOOM



AS BEFORE, THE  
STONE REFORMS  
ABOUT MY  
ARM!

SHE-HULK! THY  
GAMMA-SPAWNED  
MIGHT WOULD BE OF  
SERVICE HERE!

RIGHT WITH  
YOU, BIG  
BOY!



YOU KEEP  
POUNDING  
THE SAME  
SPOT.

I'LL WORK  
ON SMASH-  
ING AWAY  
THE RE-  
FORMING  
ROCK!

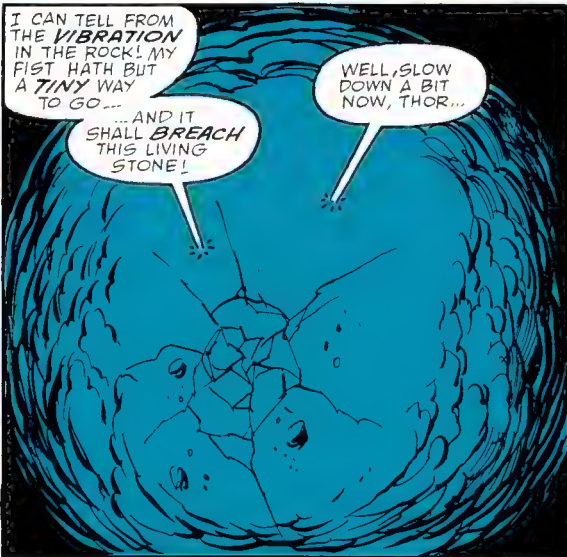
A WORTHY  
PLAN!



AND ONE WHICH  
HATH MUCH  
MERIT IN IT!

BEARD OF  
MY FATHER!  
WE DO TH  
MAKE  
HEAD-  
WAY!

WE'RE ACTUALLY  
PUNCHING  
THROUGH!



I CAN TELL FROM  
THE VIBRATION  
IN THE ROCK! MY  
FIST HATH BUT  
A TINY WAY  
TO GO...

...AND IT  
SHALL BREACH  
THIS LIVING  
STONE!

WELL, SLOW  
DOWN A BIT  
NOW, THOR...

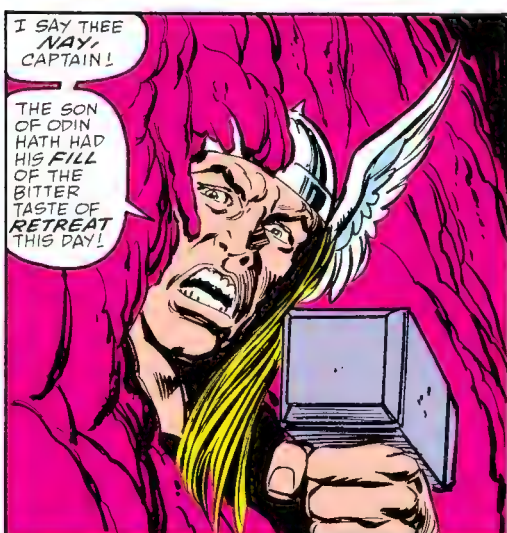


IF THAT IS STILL  
WATER OUT THERE,  
WE CAN ADD DROWN-  
ING TO OUR CHOICE  
OF DEMISES!

THY HUMOR SPEAKS  
MUCH OF THY COURAGE,  
GREEN ONE!

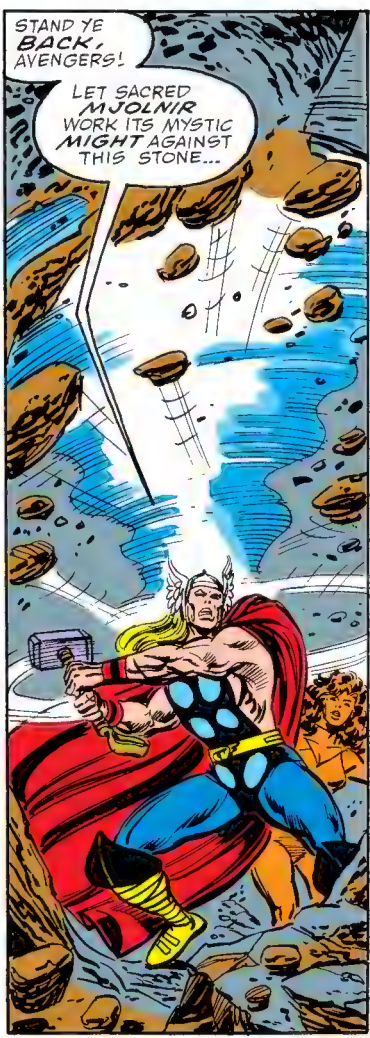
BUT I  
WILL NOT  
BE STAYED  
NOW, BUT  
ONE MORE  
BLOW...







**ENOUGH!!**



STAND YE  
BACK,  
AVENGERS!

LET SACRED  
MJOLNIR  
WORK ITS MYSTIC  
MIGHT AGAINST  
THIS STONE...



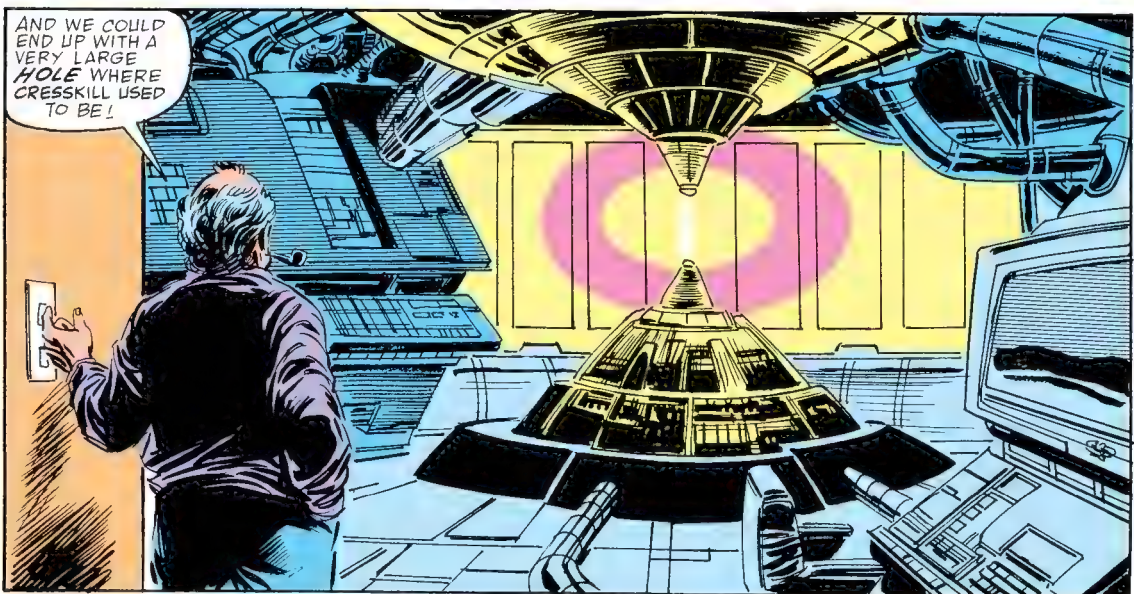
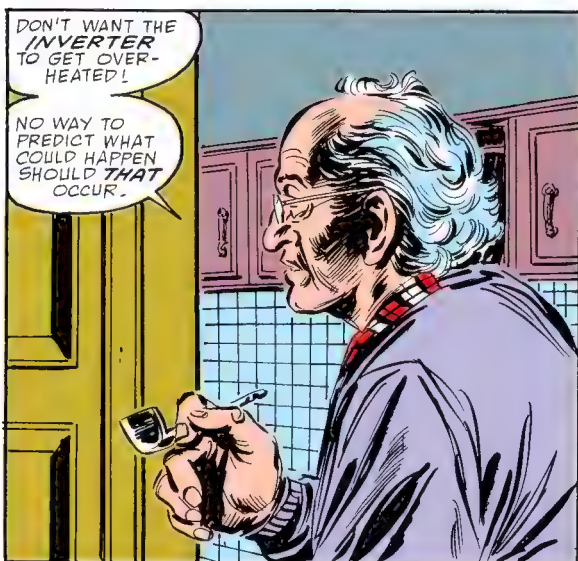
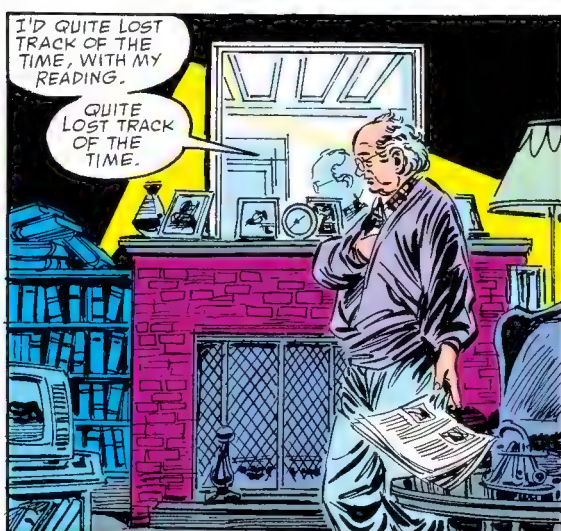
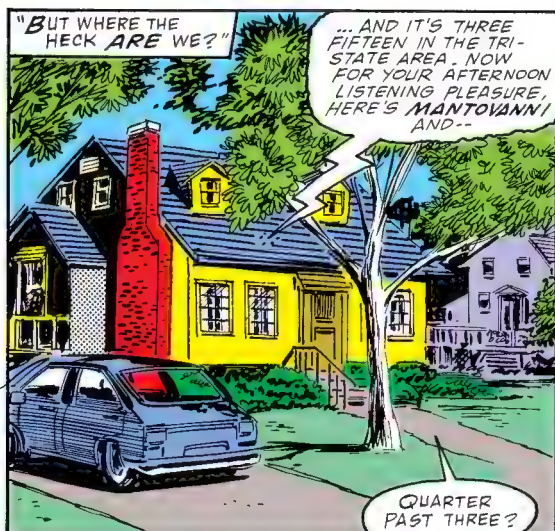
... AND WE SHALL  
BE FREE!

FREE...

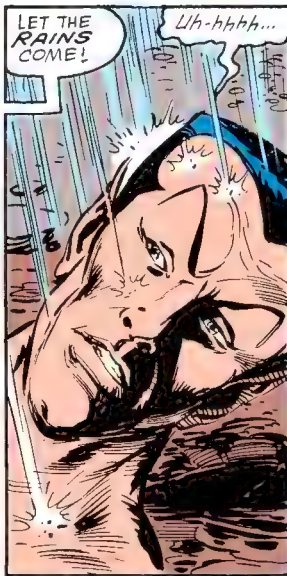


THAT WE MAY BE,  
HANDSOME...

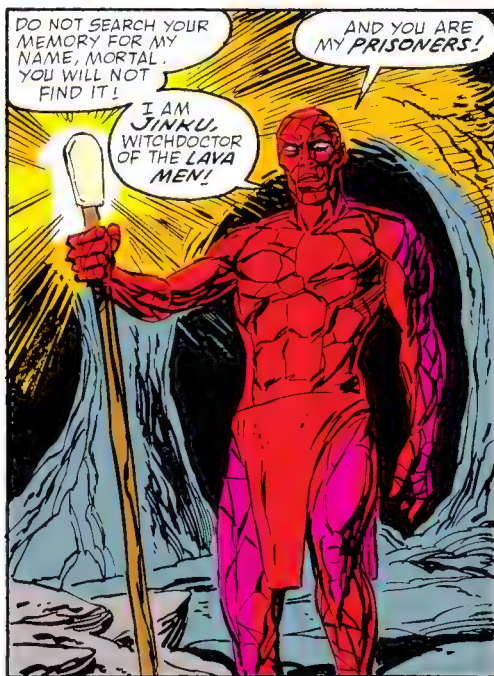




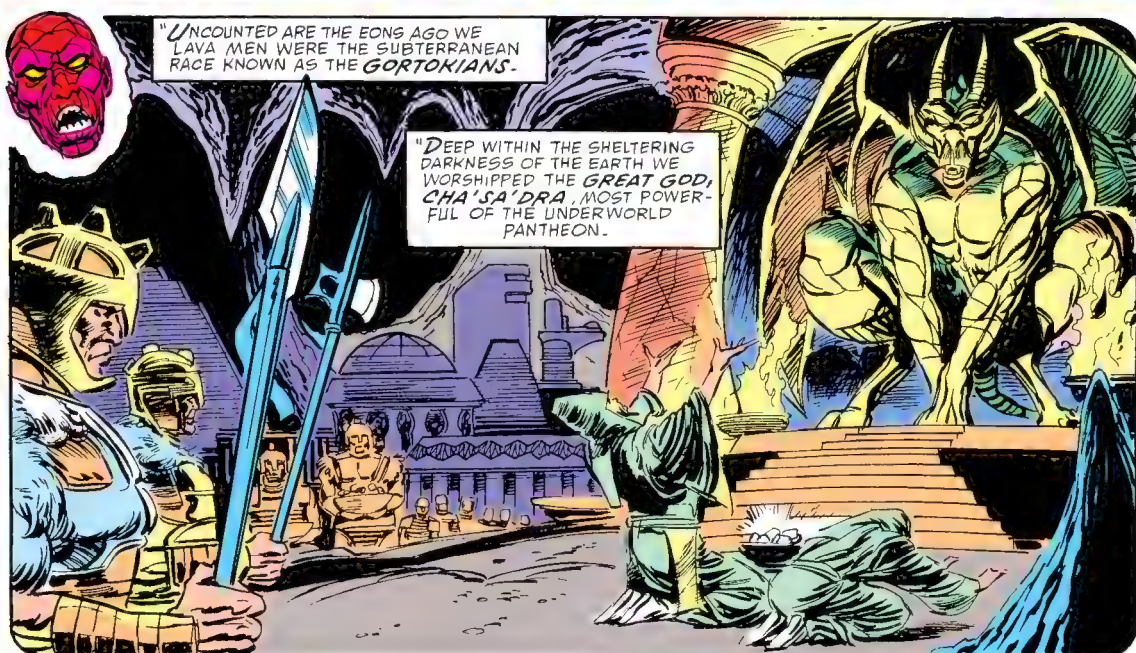












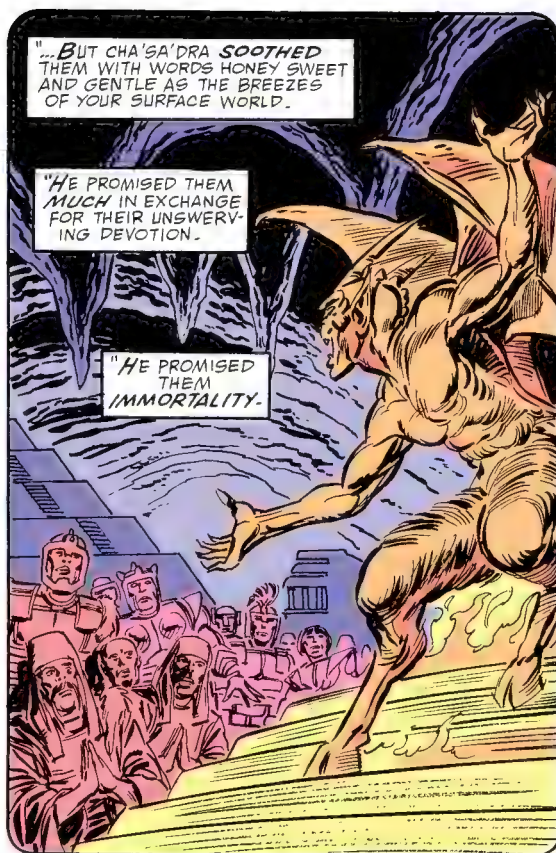




"ONE DAY OUR PRAYERS  
ACHIEVED A  
MIRACLE....!"

"BEFORE THE  
GRAVEN IMAGE  
OF CHA'SA'DRA  
HIS **TRUE**  
FORM  
APPEARED!"

"AT  
FIRST, MY PEOPLE  
WERE **TERRIFIED**  
BY THE SIGHT OF  
THE LIVING GOD..."



"...BUT CHA'SA'DRA **SOOTHED**  
THEM WITH WORDS HONEY SWEET  
AND GENTLE AS THE BREEZES  
OF YOUR SURFACE WORLD."

"HE PROMISED THEM  
**MUCH** IN EXCHANGE  
FOR THEIR UNSWERY-  
ING DEVOTION."

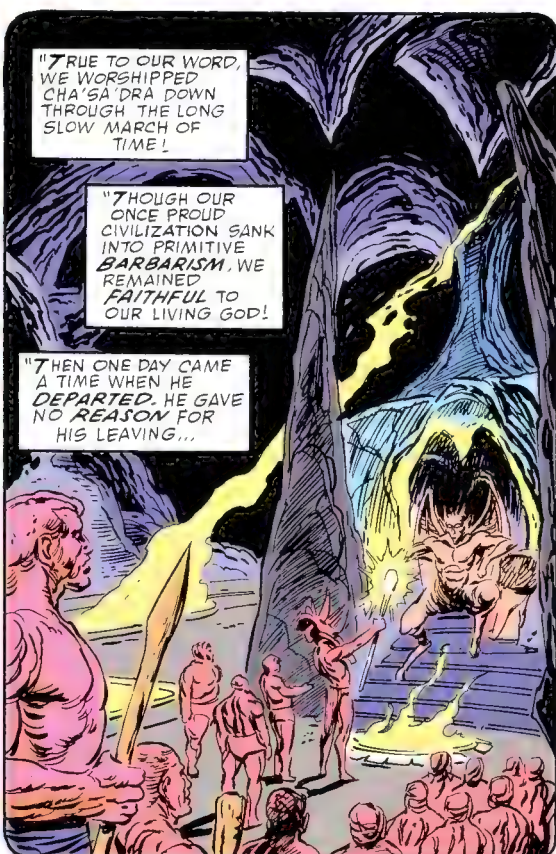
"HE PROMISED  
THEM  
**IMMORTALITY.**"



"NONE COULD  
RESIST SO  
TEMPTING  
AN OFFER."

"CHA'SA'DRA  
WAVED HIS TALONED  
HAND AND WE WERE  
**TRANSFORMED!**"

"MORTAL FLESH GAVE WAY TO  
INCORRUPTIBLE **MOLTEN STONE.**  
WE WERE THE FIRST OF THE  
**LAVA MEN!**"

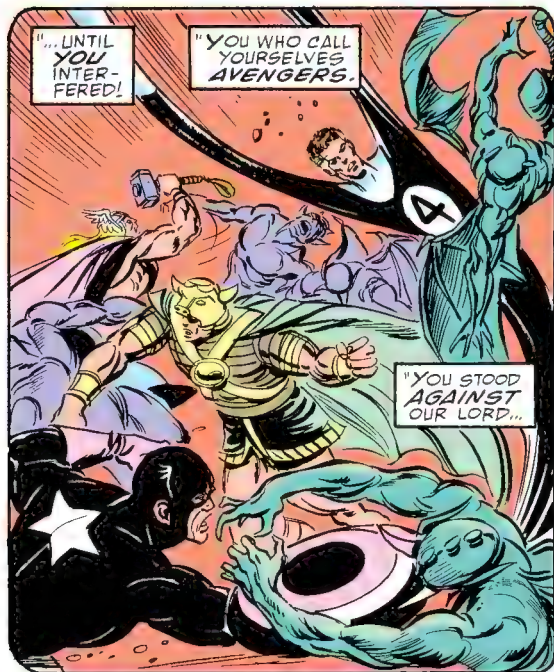
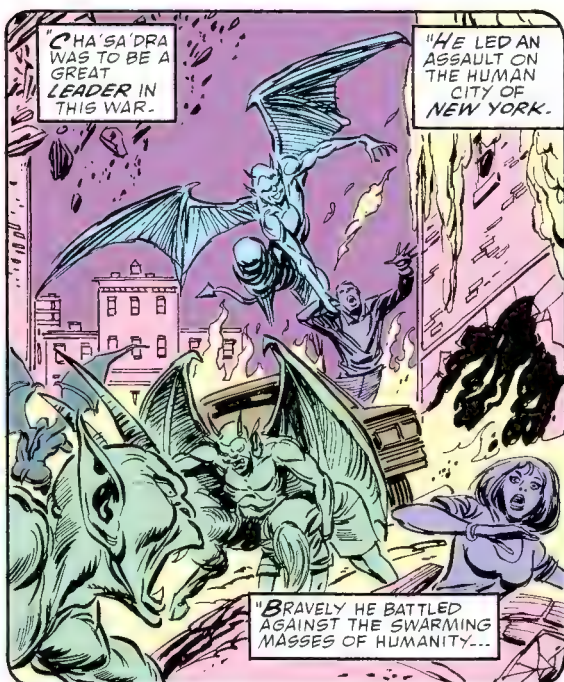


"TRUE TO OUR WORD,  
WE WORSHIPPED  
CHA'SA'DRA DOWN  
THROUGH THE LONG  
SLOW MARCH OF  
TIME!"

"THOUGH OUR  
ONCE PROUD  
CIVILIZATION SANK  
INTO PRIMITIVE  
**BARBARISM**, WE  
REMAINED  
**FAITHFUL** TO  
OUR LIVING GOD!"

"THEN ONE DAY CAME  
A TIME WHEN HE  
**DEPARTED.** HE GAVE  
NO **REASON** FOR  
HIS LEAVING..."

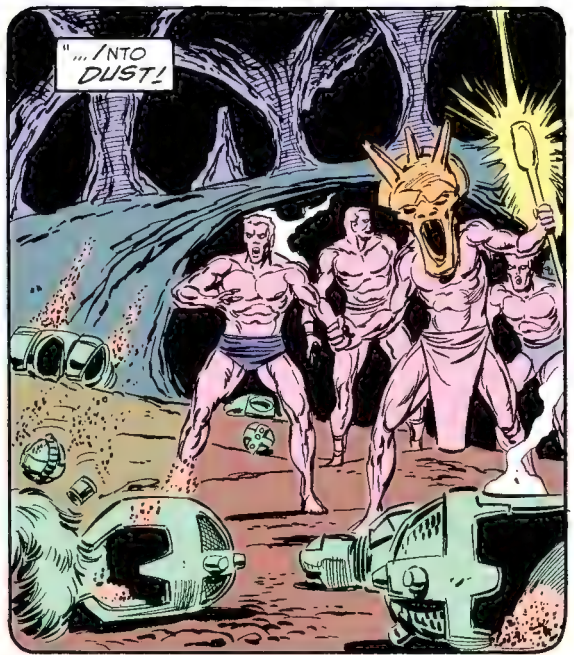




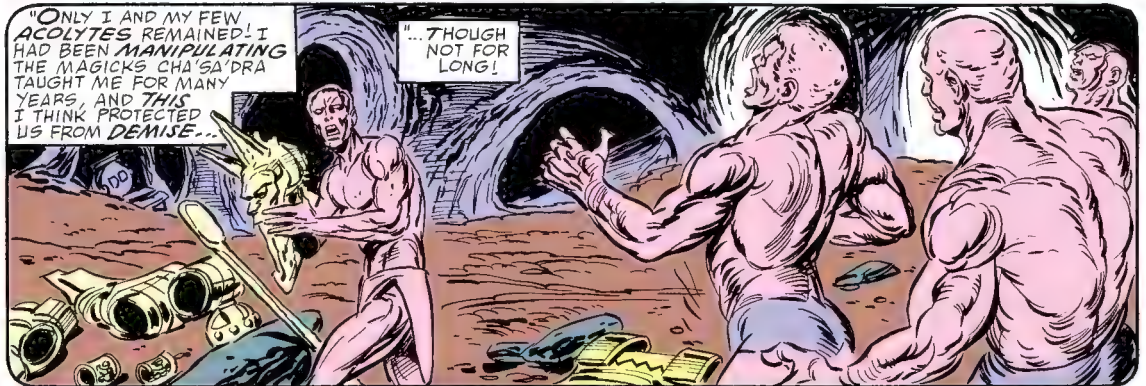




"I WATCHED IN HORROR AS UNCOUNTED HUNDREDS OF MY RACE SHRIVELED INTO EMPTY SACKS OF DRIED OUT FLESH AND BONE..."



"...INTO DUST!"



"ONLY I AND MY FEW ACOLYTES REMAINED! I HAD BEEN MANIPULATING THE MAGICKS CHA'SA'DRA TAUGHT ME FOR MANY YEARS, AND THIS I THINK PROTECTED US FROM DEMISE..."

"...THOUGH NOT FOR LONG!"



"ALTHOUGH MY FELLOW SURVIVORS DID NOT REVERT TO HUMAN FORM AND CRUMBLE AWAY TO NOTHING..."



"...THERE WAS A CHANGE IN STORE FOR THEM, AS WELL."

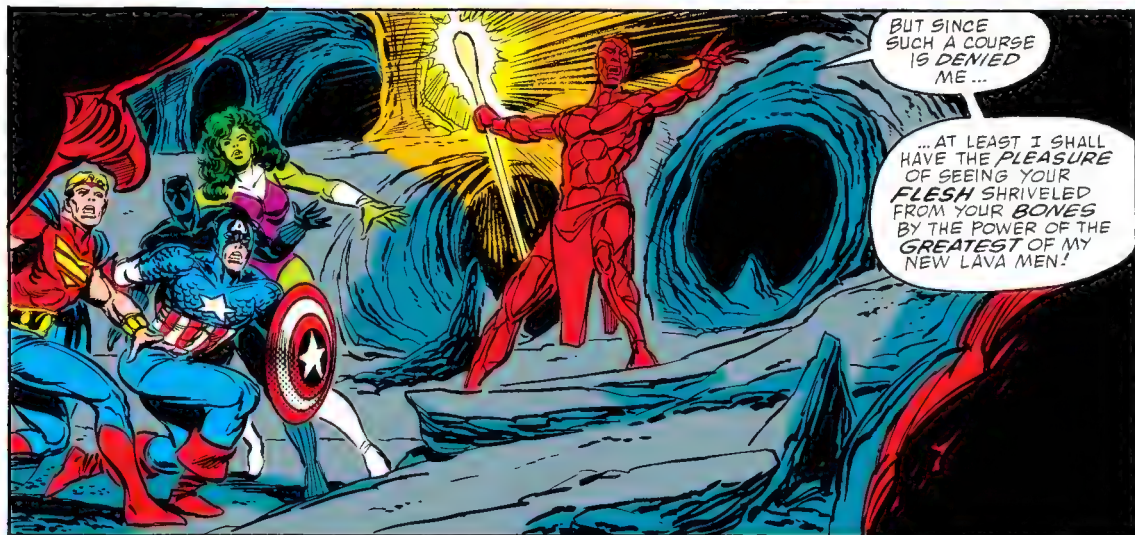
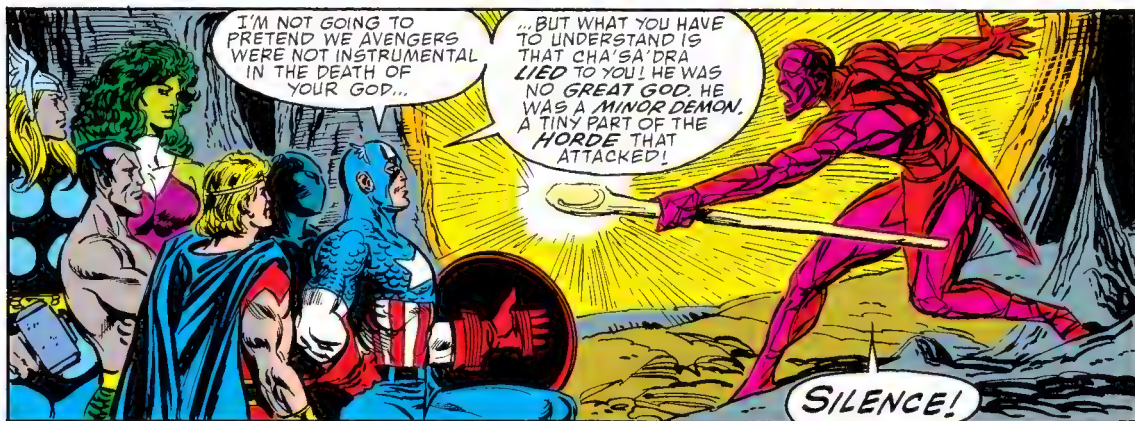
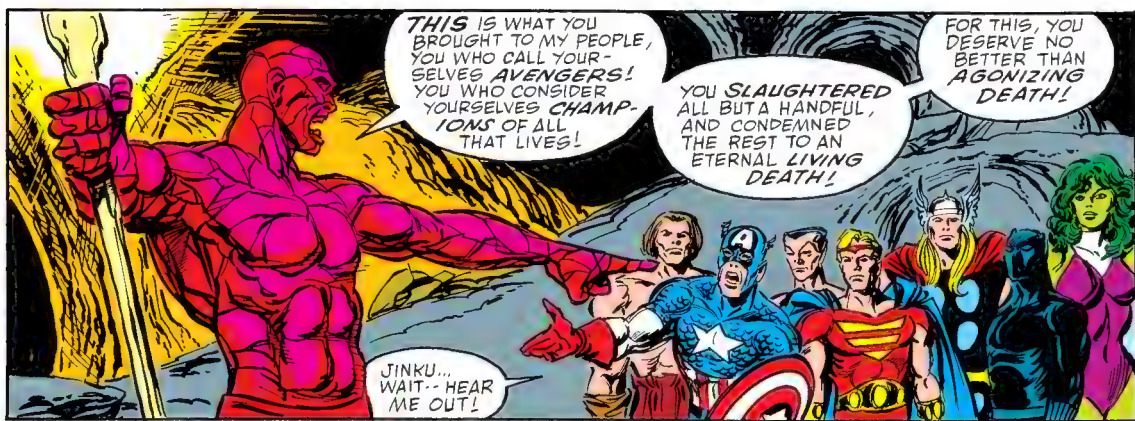
"THE FLOWING, MOLTEN LAVA OF THEIR BODIES HARDENED INTO IMMOBILE STONE!"



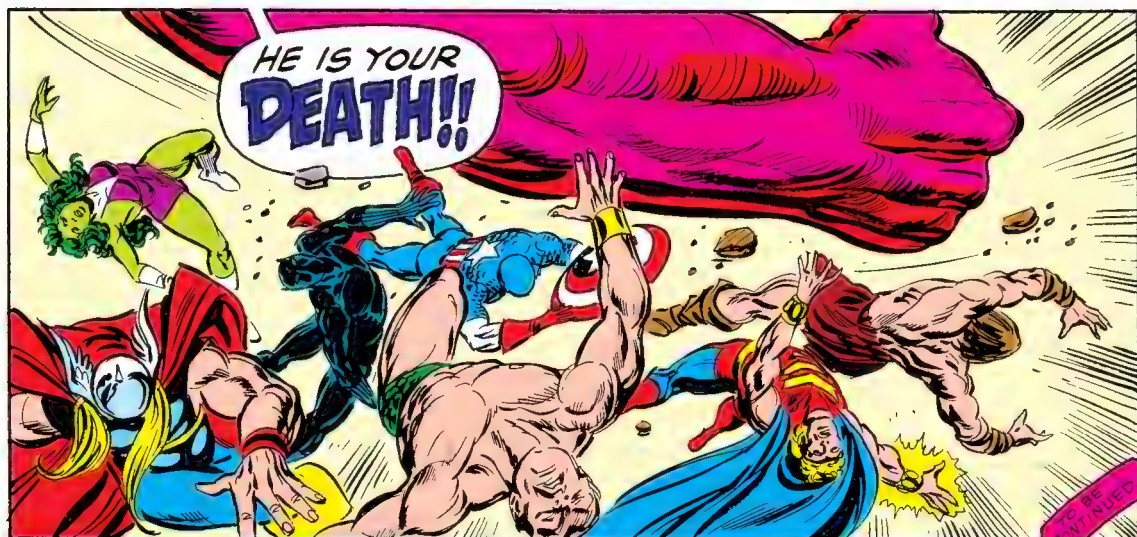
"THEY LIVED... BUT AS STATUES. HELPLESS..."

"...THE PROCESS OF THEIR MINDS SLOWED TO SUCH A POINT TEN THOUSAND YEARS MIGHT PASS BEFORE THEY FORMED A WHOLE THOUGHT!"









TO BE CONTINUED



MARVEL



\$1.00 US  
\$1.25 CAN  
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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

THOR! CAPTAIN! SHE! QUASAR!  
AMERICAN! HULK!

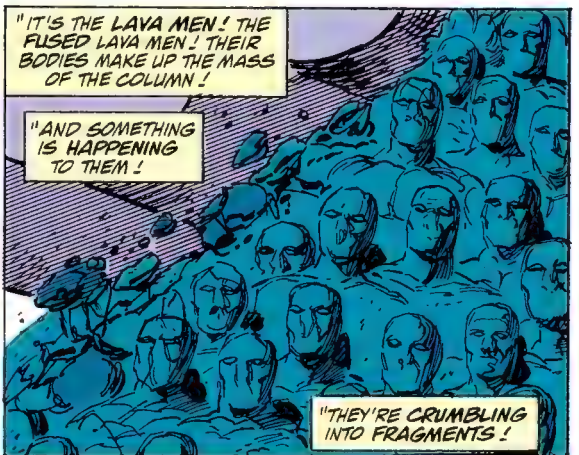
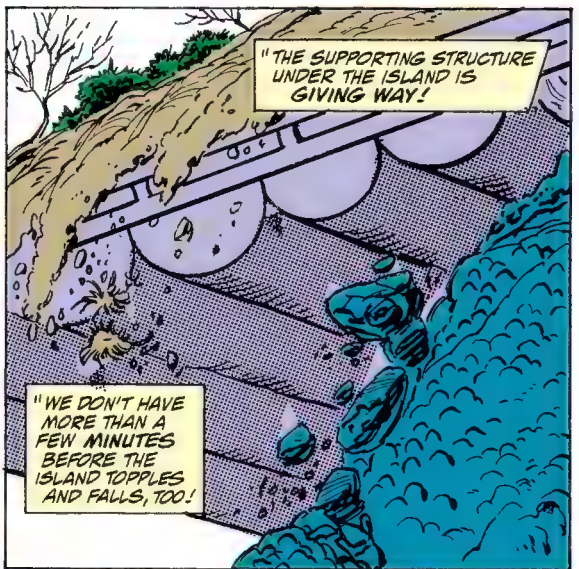
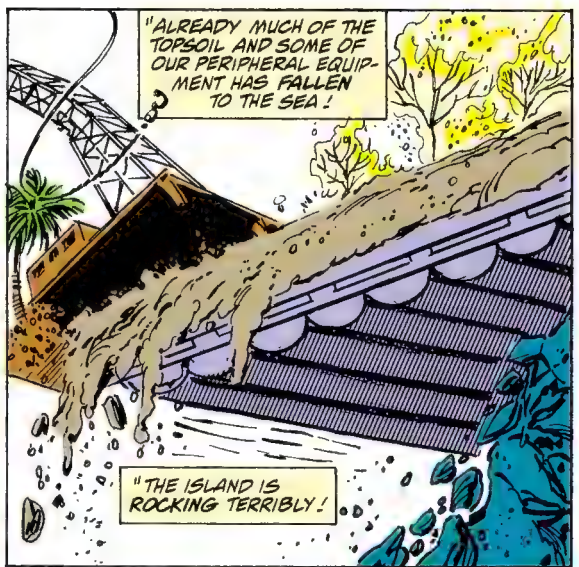
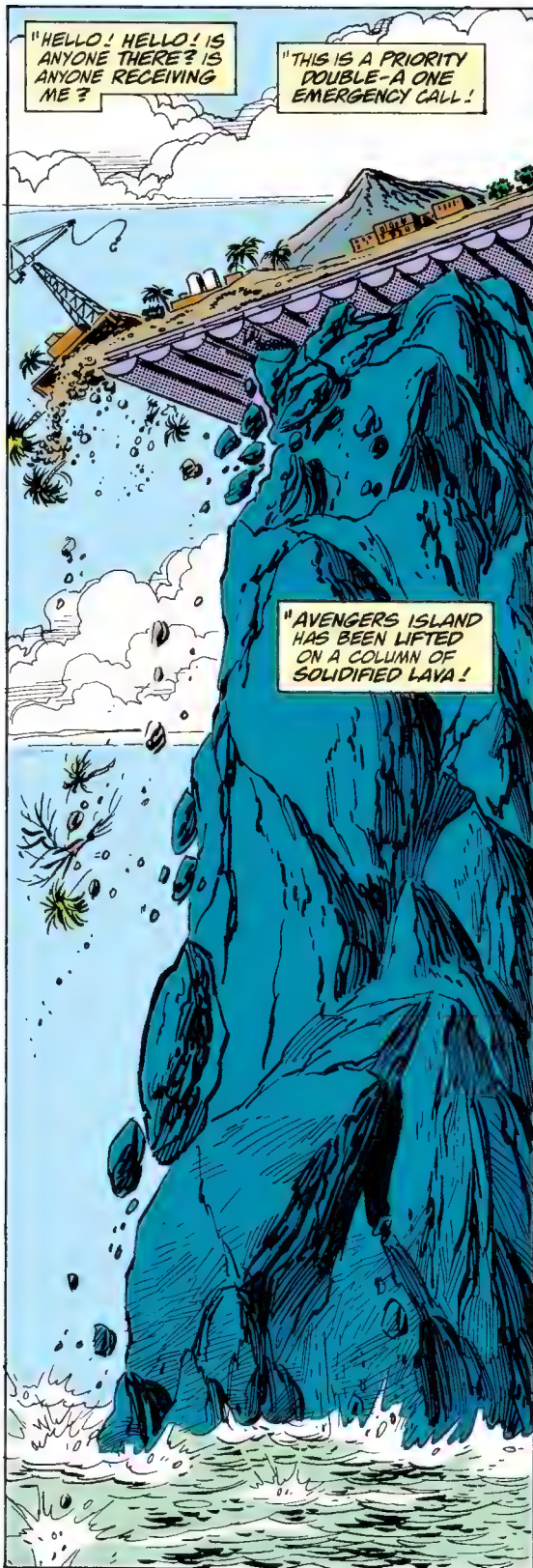
# AVENGERS



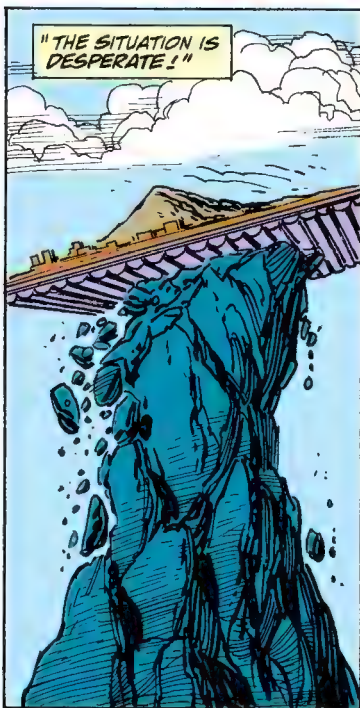
TO CRUSH  
AN  
ETERNAL!

KIRBY/FAIRMAN

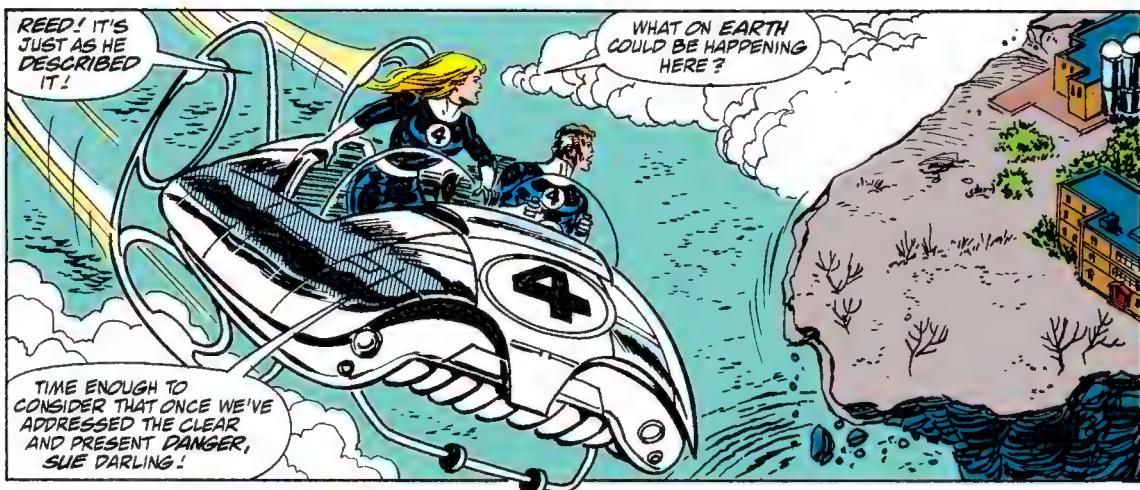












REED! IT'S JUST AS HE DESCRIBED IT!

WHAT ON EARTH COULD BE HAPPENING HERE?

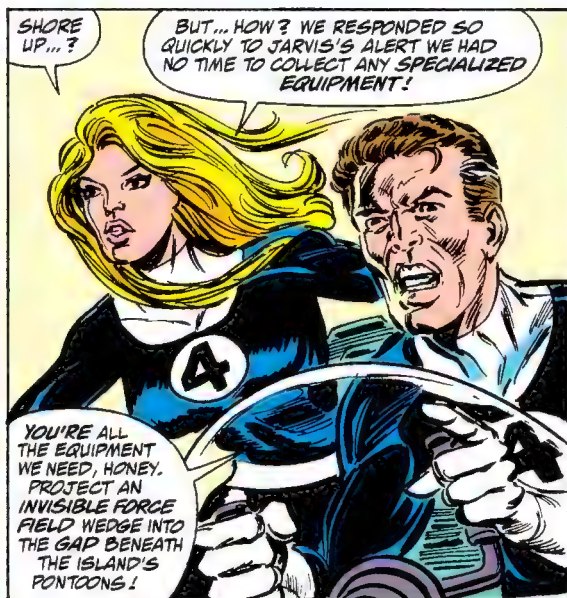
TIME ENOUGH TO CONSIDER THAT ONCE WE'VE ADDRESSED THE CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER, SUE DARLING!



THERE!

THE ROCK IS MOST FRIABLE JUST THERE!

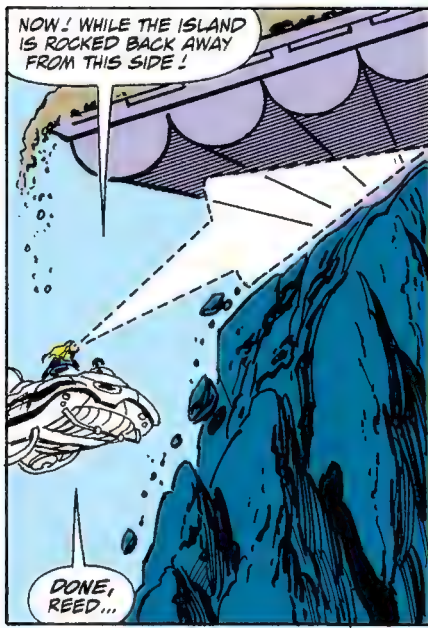
IF WE ARE TO PREVENT HYDROBASE FROM FALLING, THAT IS THE POINT WE MUST SHORE UP!



SHORE UP...?

BUT... HOW? WE RESPONDED SO QUICKLY TO JARVIS'S ALERT WE HAD NO TIME TO COLLECT ANY SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT!

YOU'RE ALL THE EQUIPMENT WE NEED, HONEY. PROJECT AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD WEDGE INTO THE GAP BENEATH THE ISLAND'S PONTOONS!



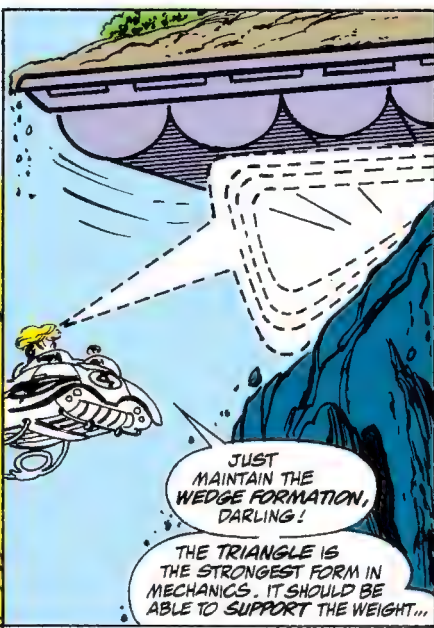
NOW! WHILE THE ISLAND IS ROCKED BACK AWAY FROM THIS SIDE!

DONE, REED...



BUT... THE ISLAND WEIGHS THOUSANDS OF TONS!

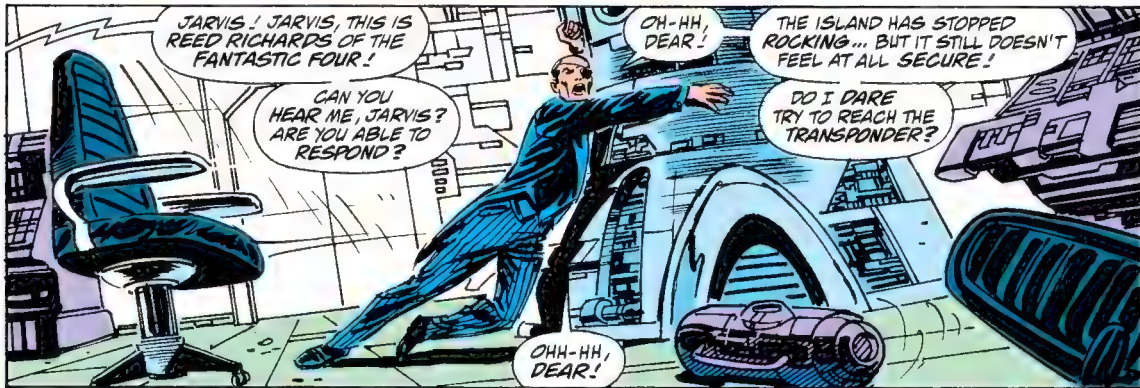
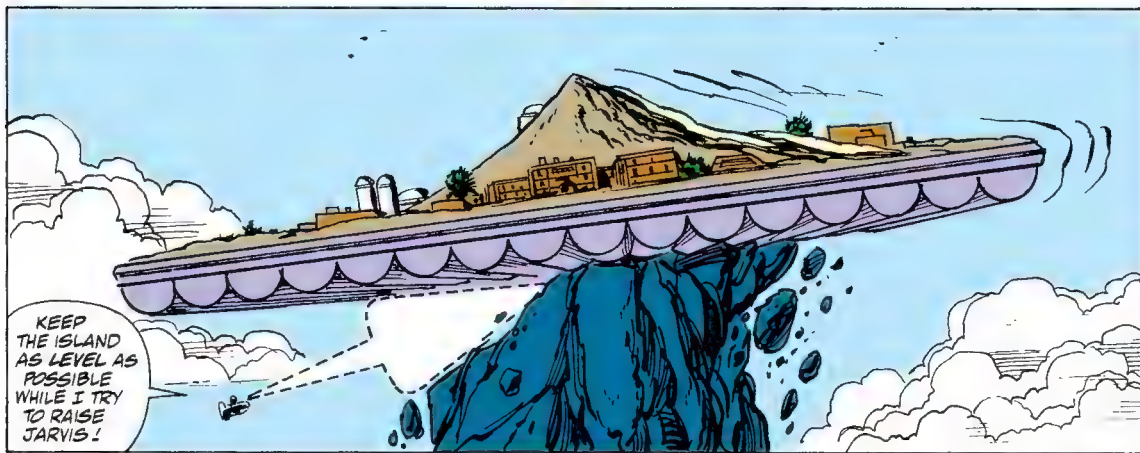
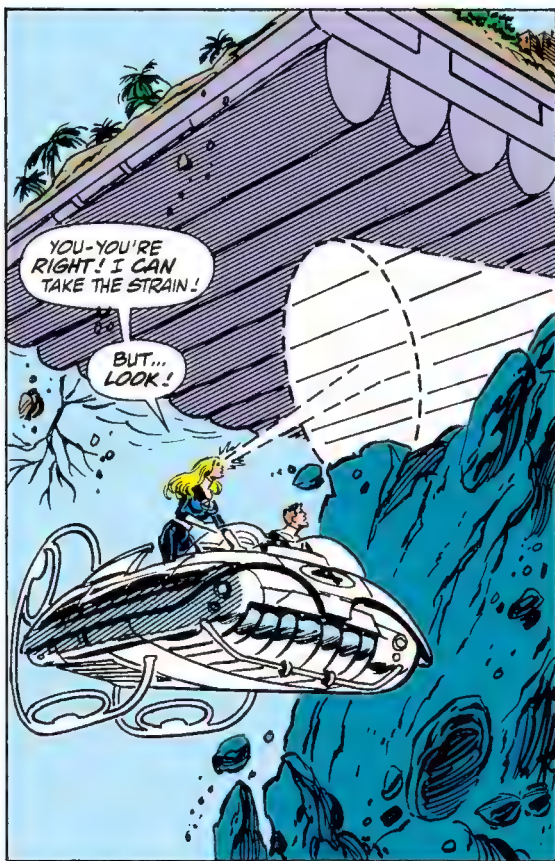
THE PRESSURE ON MY FORCE FIELD...



JUST MAINTAIN THE WEDGE FORMATION, DARLING!

THE TRIANGLE IS THE STRONGEST FORM IN MECHANICS. IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE WEIGHT...







"...I DO HOPE THE AVENGERS ARE FARING BETTER THAN THIS!"

STRIKE, MY LAVA BEAST!

DESTROY THE INFIDELS! THE BLASPHEMERS!

# METAMORPHOSIS

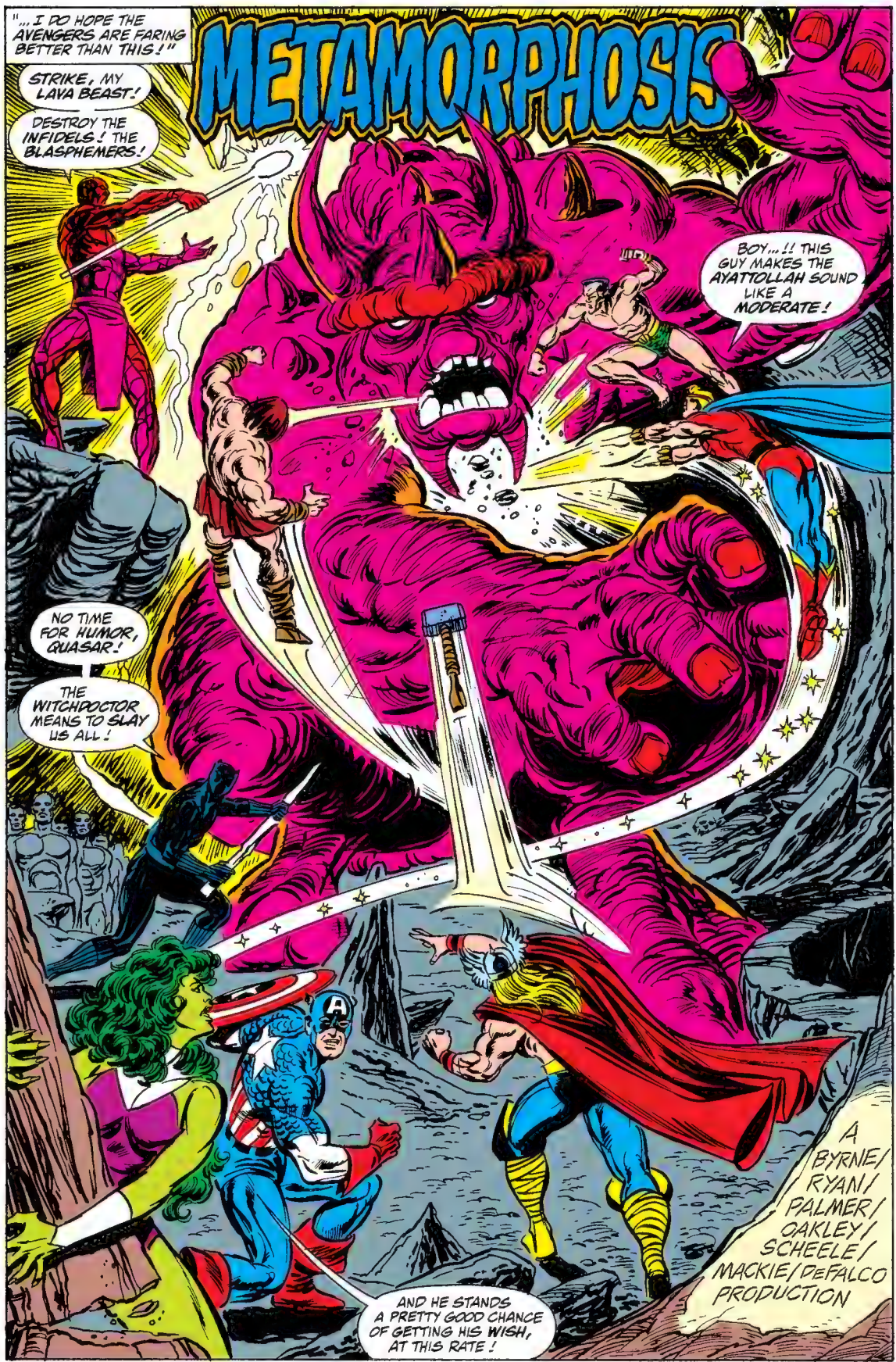
BOY...!! THIS GUY MAKES THE AYATTOLLAH SOUND LIKE A MODERATE!

NO TIME FOR HUMOR, QUASAR!

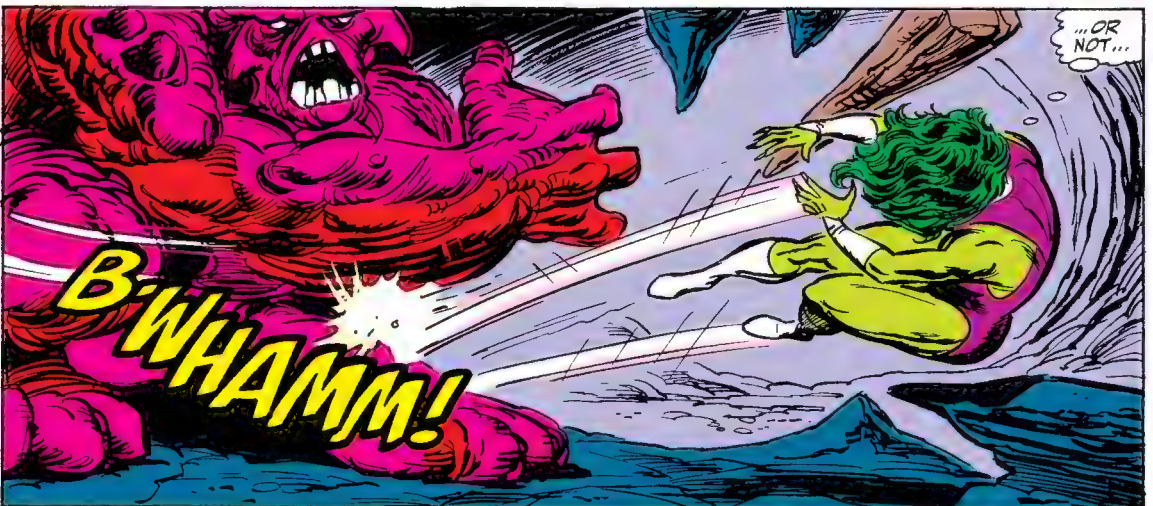
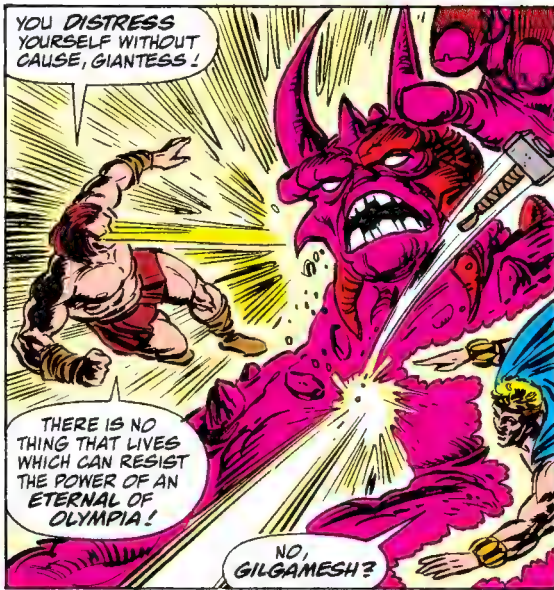
THE WITCHDOCTOR MEANS TO SLAY US ALL!

AND HE STANDS A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING HIS WISH, AT THIS RATE!

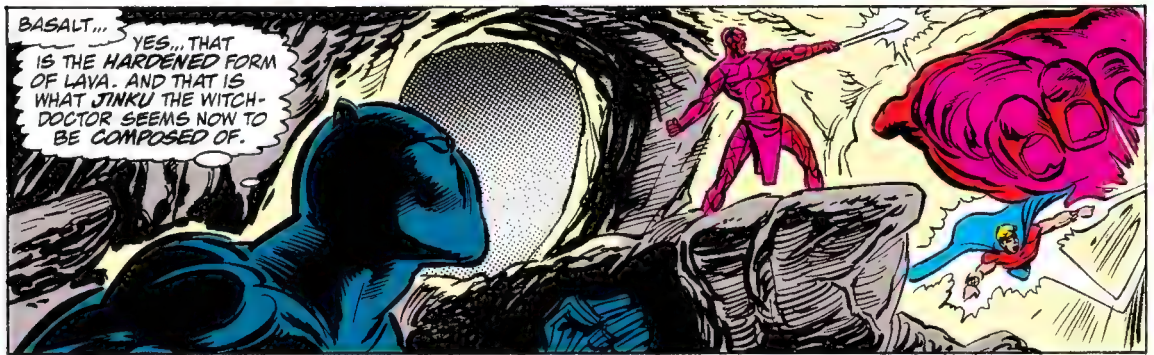
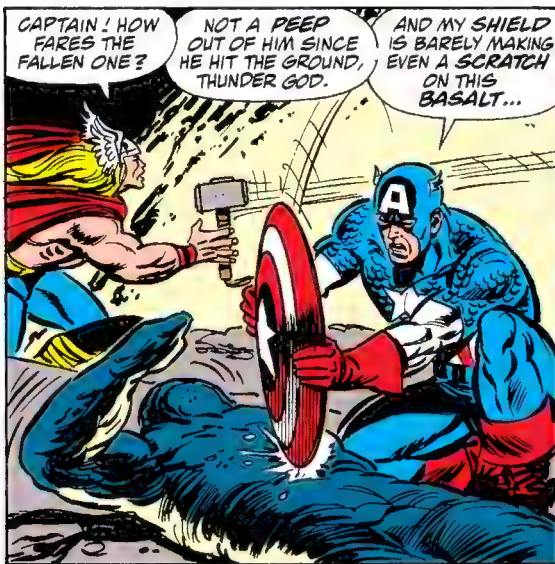
A  
BYRNE/  
RYAN/  
PALMER/  
OAKLEY/  
SCHEELE/  
MACKIE/DEFALCO  
PRODUCTION



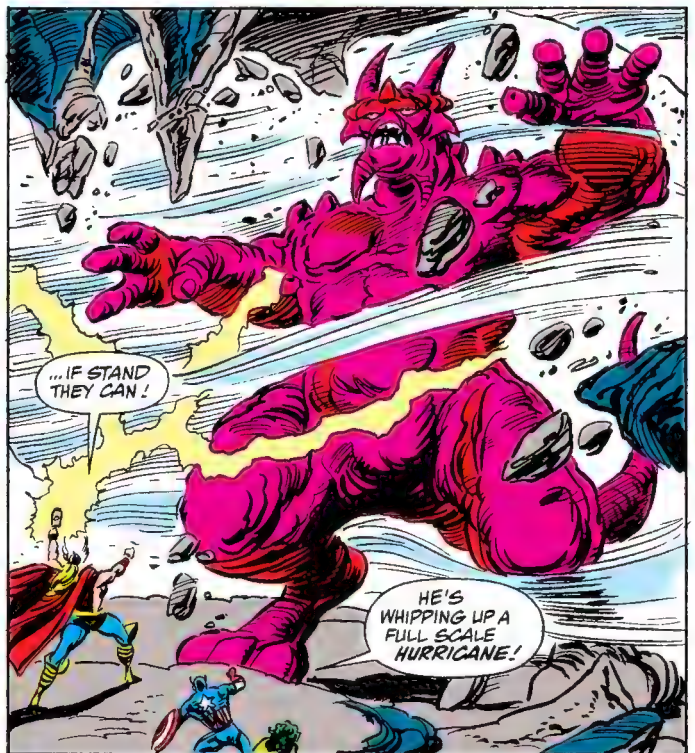
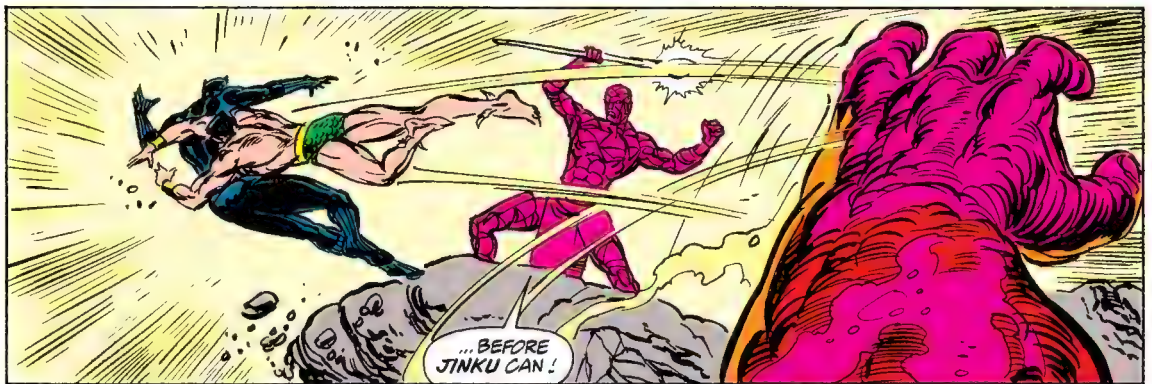




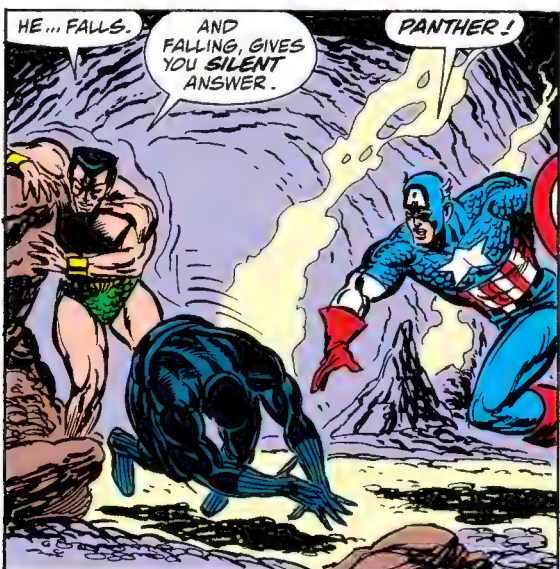
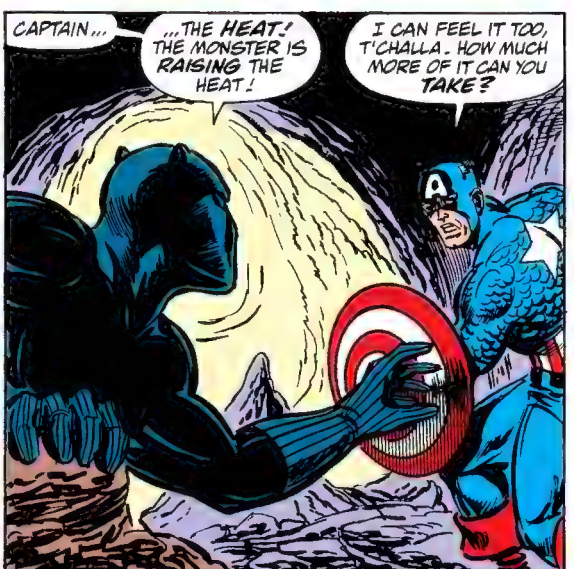
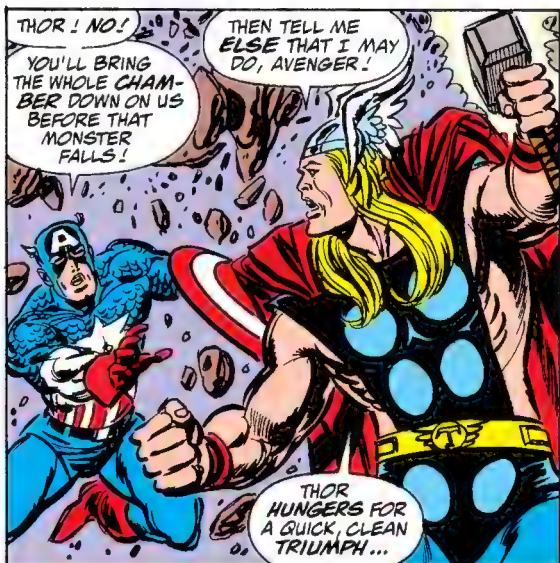




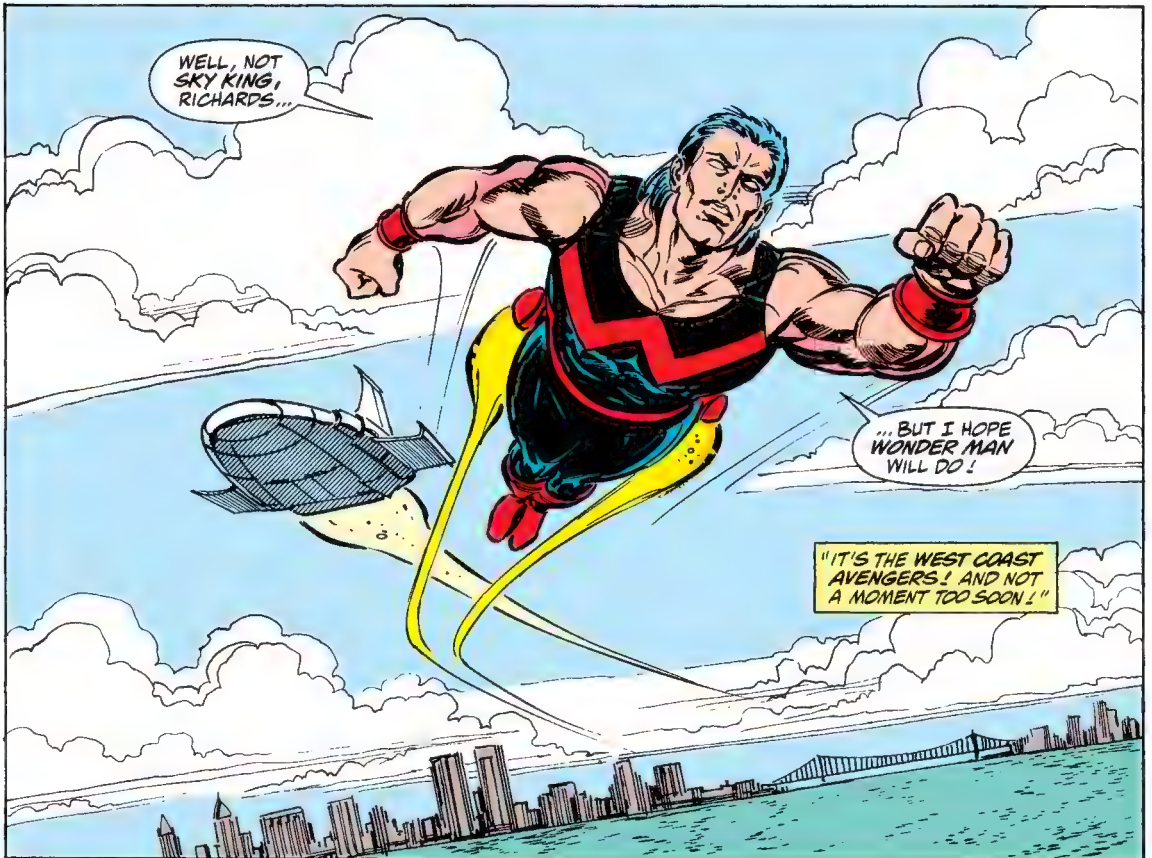
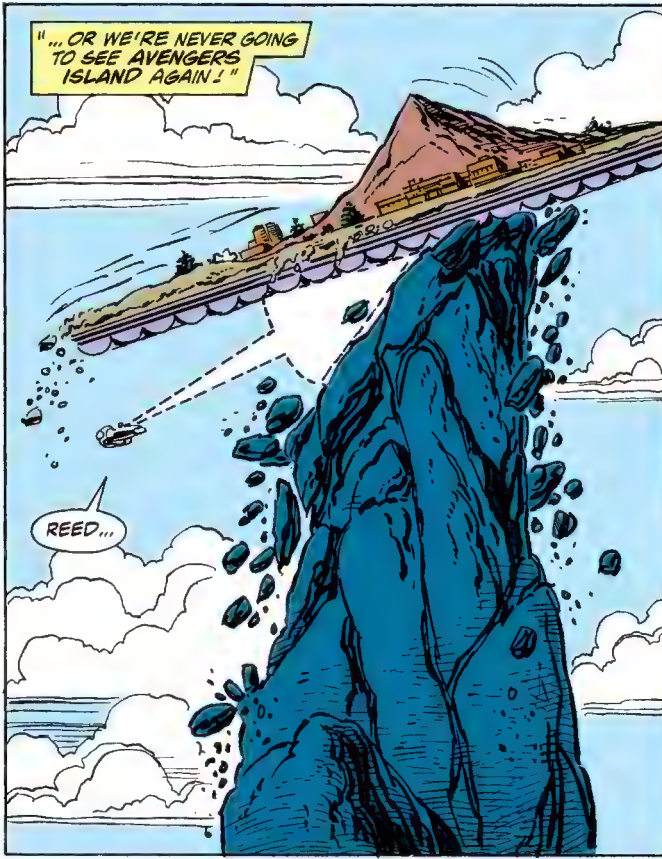




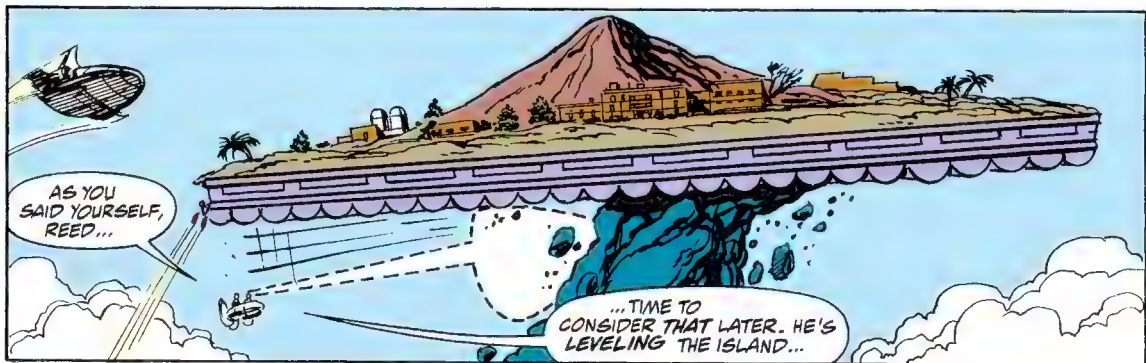
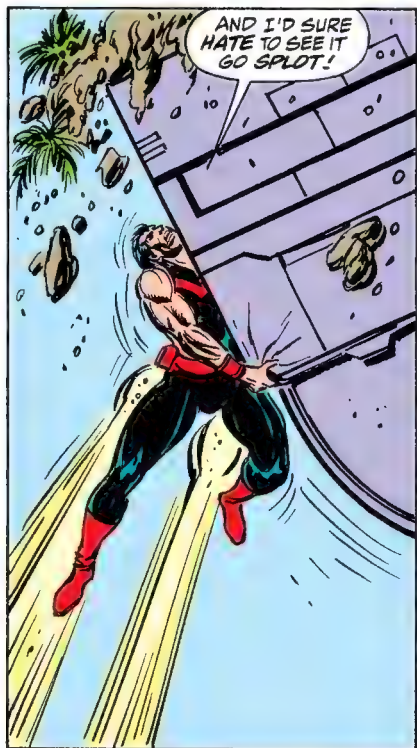
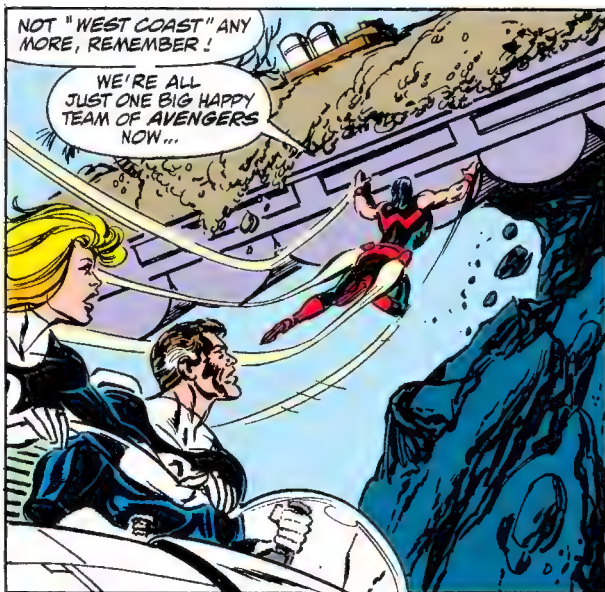




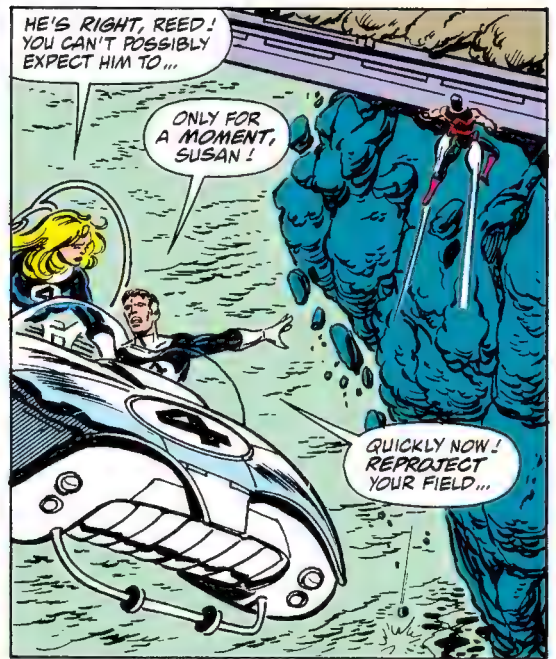




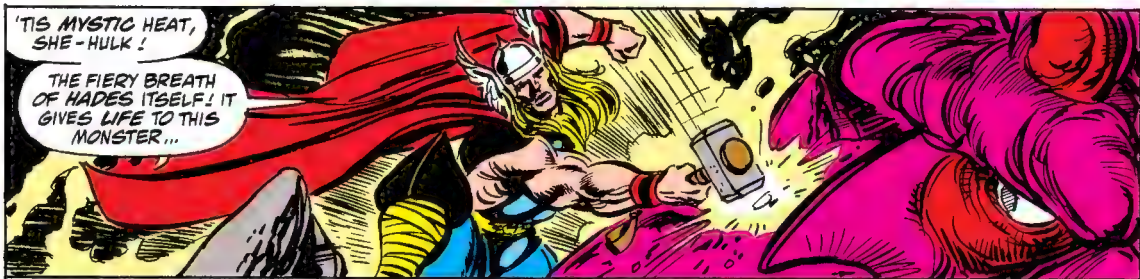
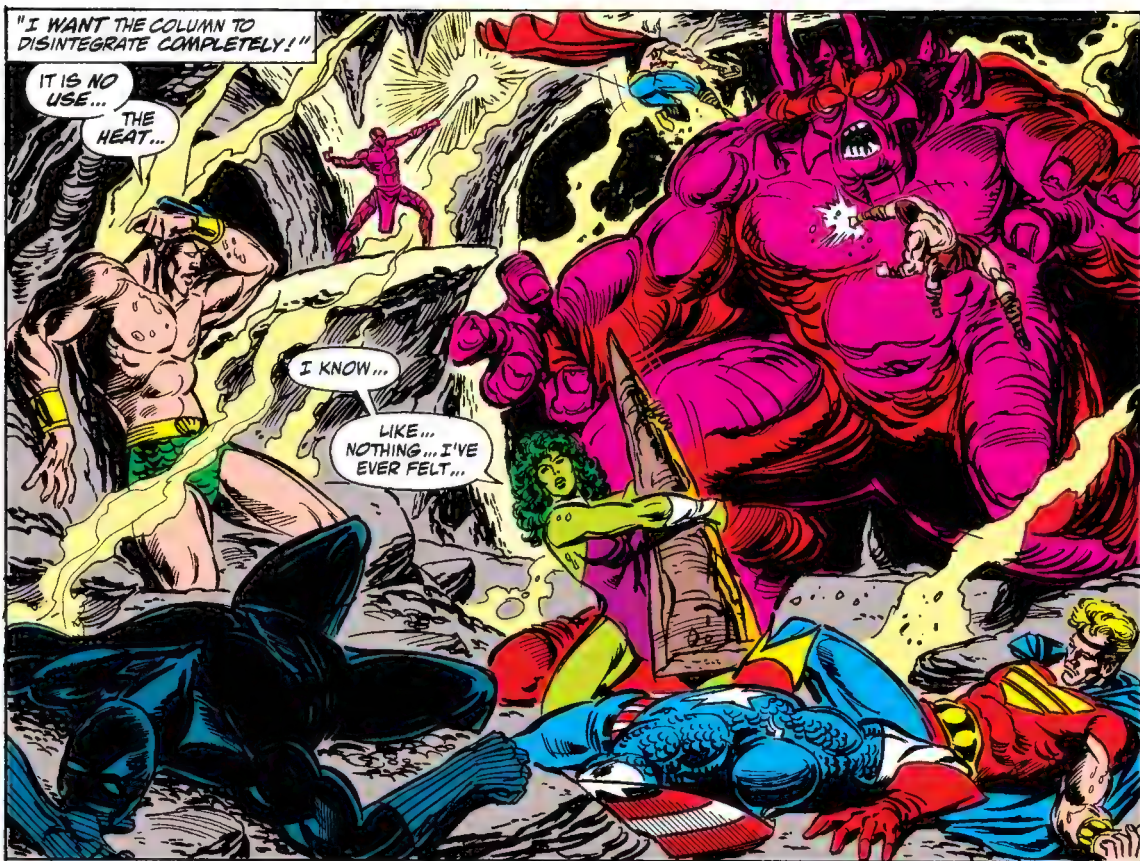






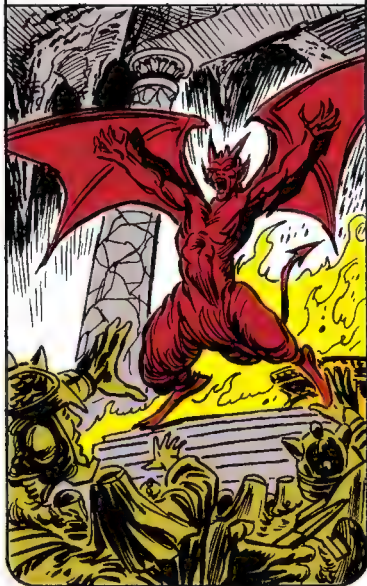








"HAVE I NOT TOLD YOU HOW THE GREAT GOD CHA'SA'DRA APPEARED ONE DAY TO MY ANCIENT ANCESTORS..."



"... HOW HE PROMISED THEM IMMORTALITY IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR DEVOTION..."



"... TRANSFORMED THEM INTO THE FIRST LAVA MEN!"

"AND DID WE NOT WORSHIP HIM LOYALLY... WILLINGLY..."



"... DOWN THROUGH ALL THE AGES..."

"... UNTIL THE GREAT DAY WHEN THE DARK GODS TURNED THEIR MIGHT AGAINST THE BLASPHEMOUS SURFACE DWELLERS..."

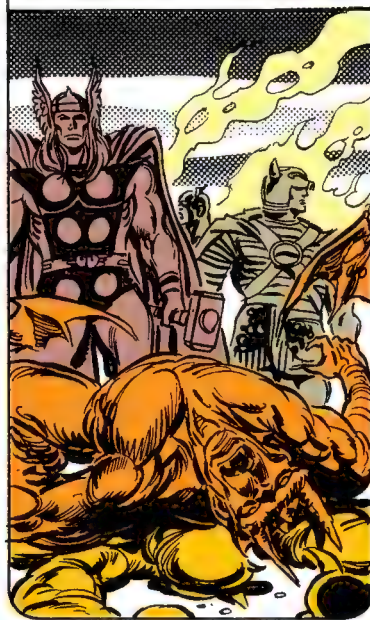


"CHA'SA'DRA WAS ONE OF THOSE GODS!"

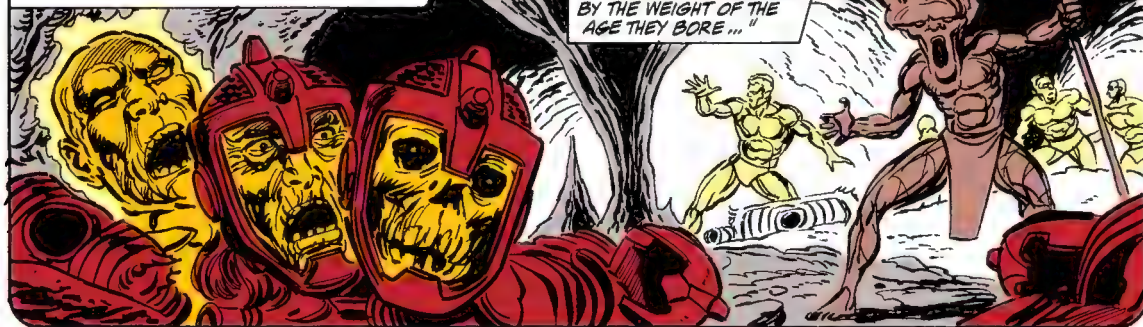


"GREATEST OF THEIR WARRIOR FORCES..."

"... BUT NONETHELESS SLAIN BY THE TREACHERY OF THE AVENGERS!"

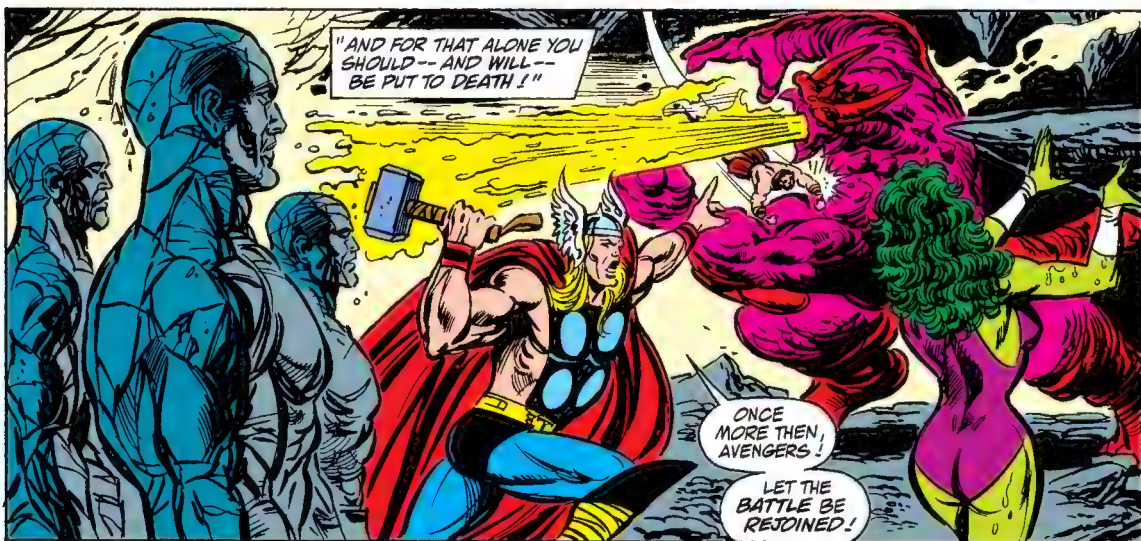
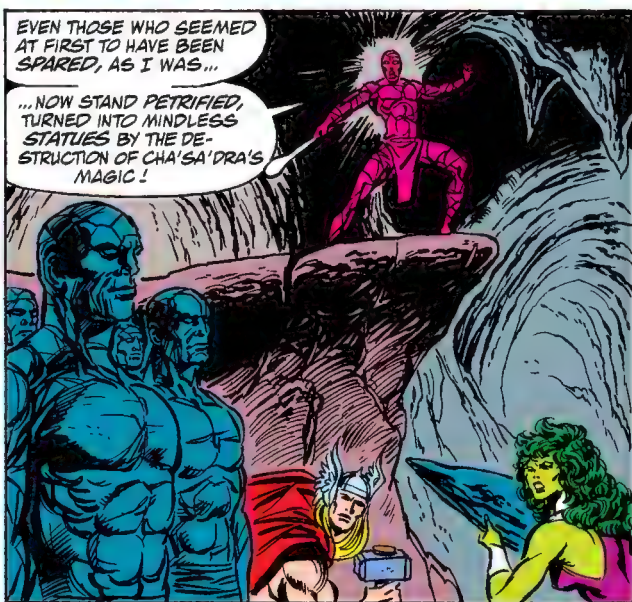


"AND WITH HIS DEATH, DID NOT ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF LAVA MEN REVERT TO MORTAL FORM..."

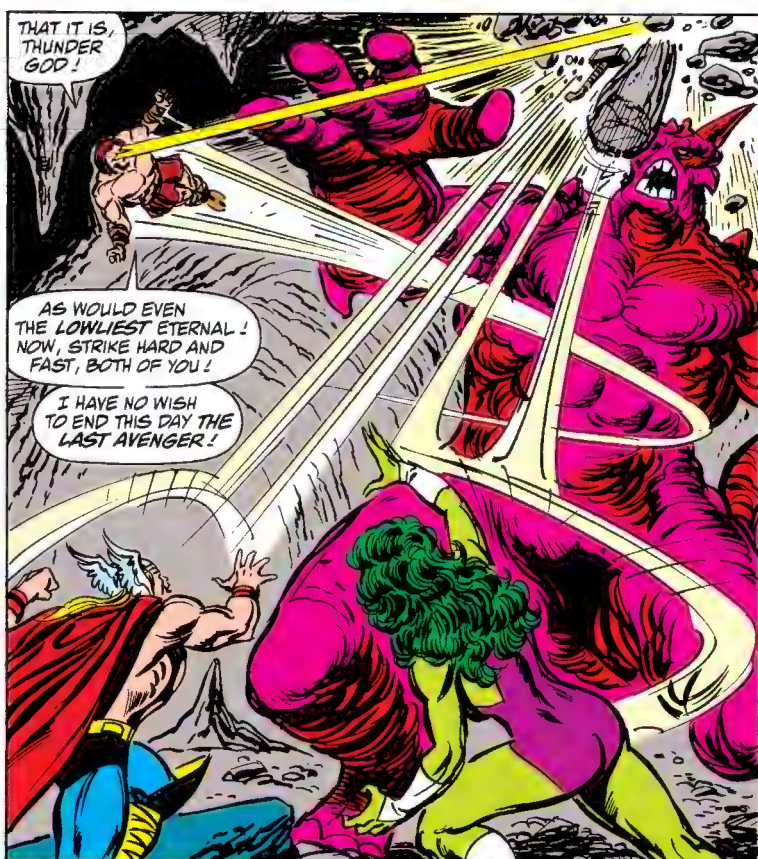
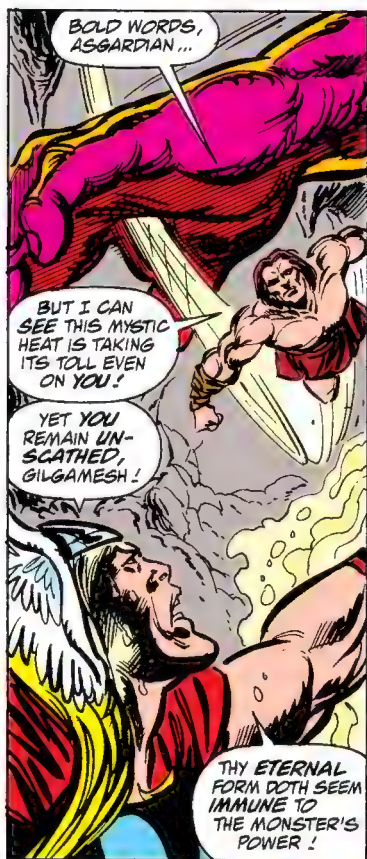


"... INSTANTLY CONSUMED BY THE WEIGHT OF THE AGE THEY BORE..."

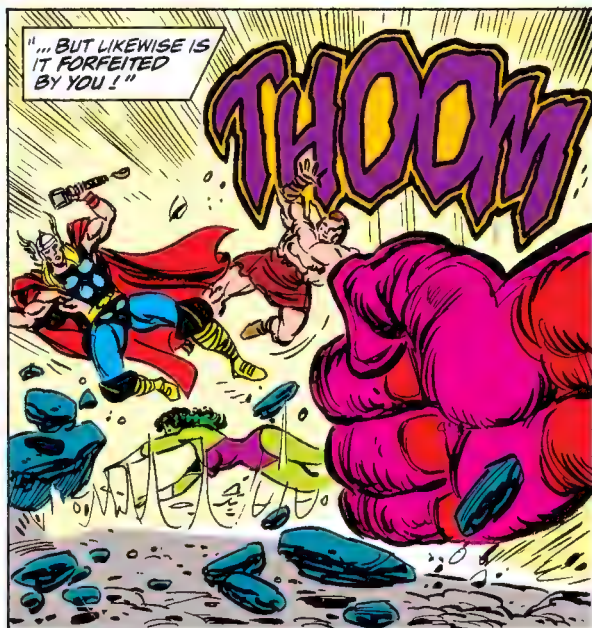
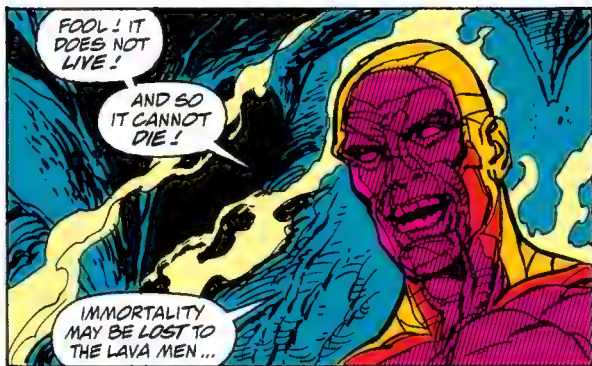
























AH HAHHA  
HAHAHA!

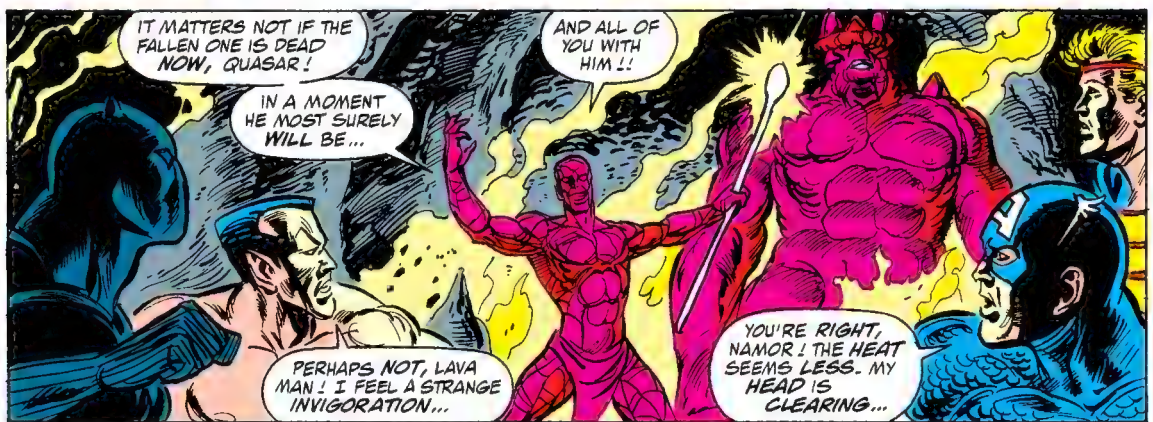
SUCH IS THE FATE  
OF ALL BLASPHEMERS!  
LOOK UPON YOUR  
FALLEN COMRADE,  
SURFACE-DWELLERS...



"... AND SEE IN HIS STILL FORM  
YOUR OWN HEREAFTER!"

HE... MOVES  
NOT... BREATHES  
NOT...

CAP... IS  
HE...? IS  
HE...?



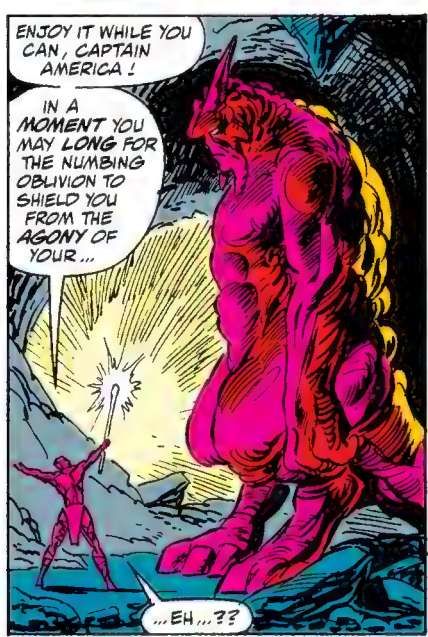
IT MATTERS NOT IF THE  
FALLEN ONE IS DEAD  
NOW, QUASAR!

IN A MOMENT  
HE MOST SURELY  
WILL BE...

AND ALL OF  
YOU WITH  
HIM!!

PERHAPS NOT, LAVA  
MAN! I FEEL A STRANGE  
INVIGORATION...

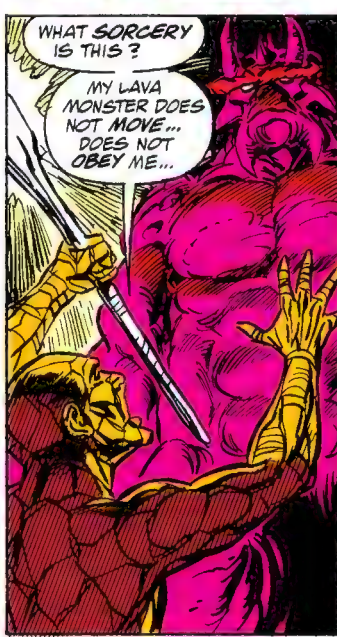
YOU'RE RIGHT,  
NAMOR! THE HEAT  
SEEMS LESS. MY  
HEAD IS  
CLEARING...



ENJOY IT WHILE YOU  
CAN, CAPTAIN  
AMERICA!

IN A  
MOMENT YOU  
MAY LONG FOR  
THE NUMBING  
OBIVION TO  
SHIELD YOU  
FROM THE  
AGONY OF  
YOUR...

...EH...??



WHAT SORCERY  
IS THIS?

MY LAVA  
MONSTER DOES  
NOT MOVE...  
DOES NOT  
OBEY ME...

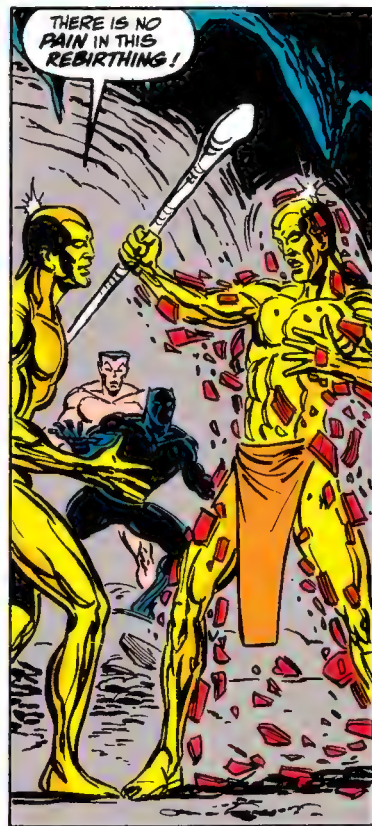
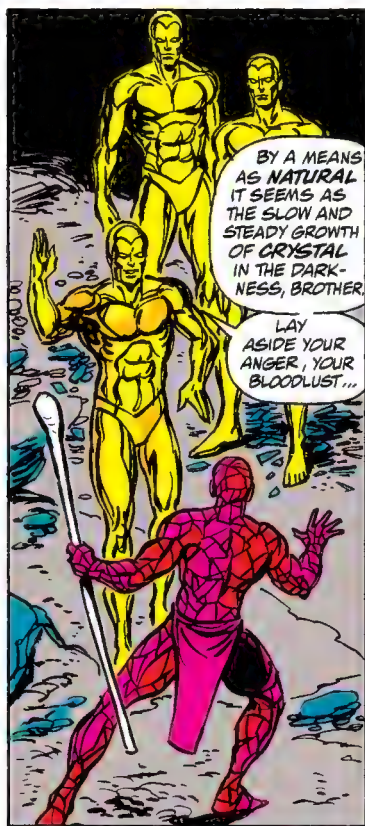
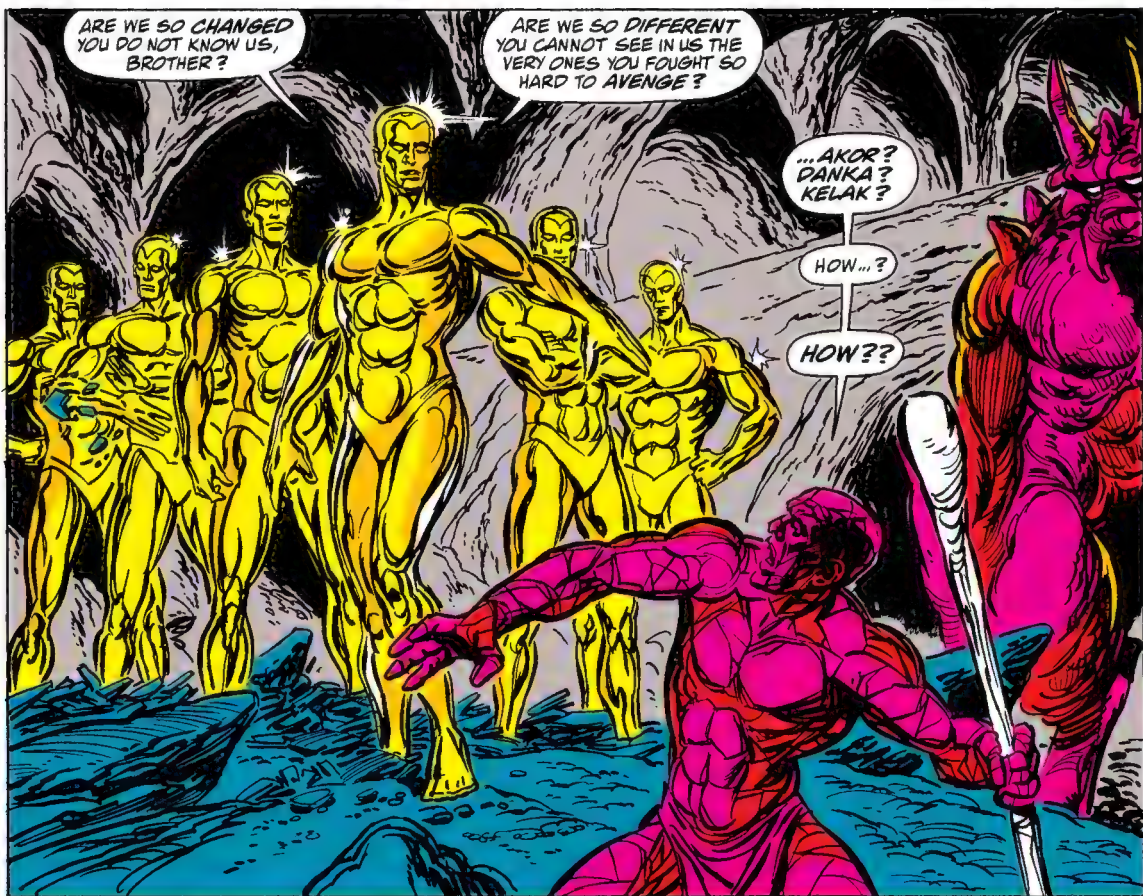


NOR SHALL HE, JINKU.

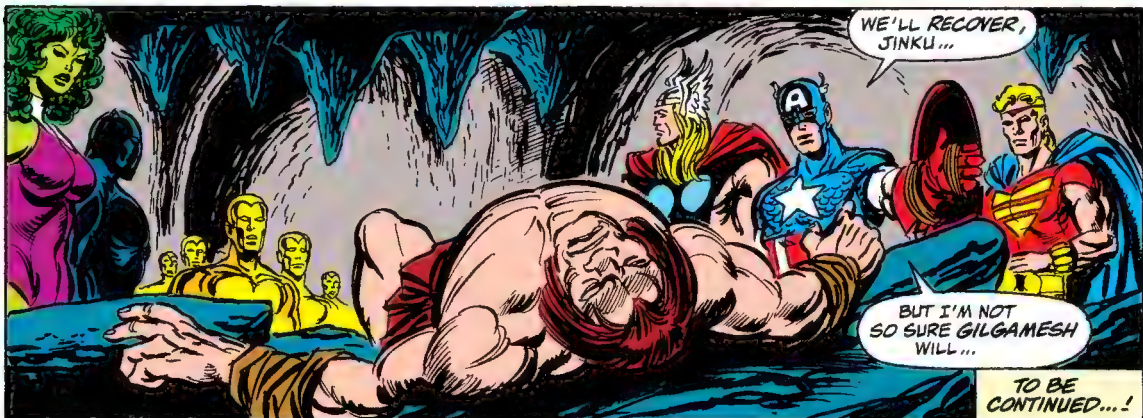
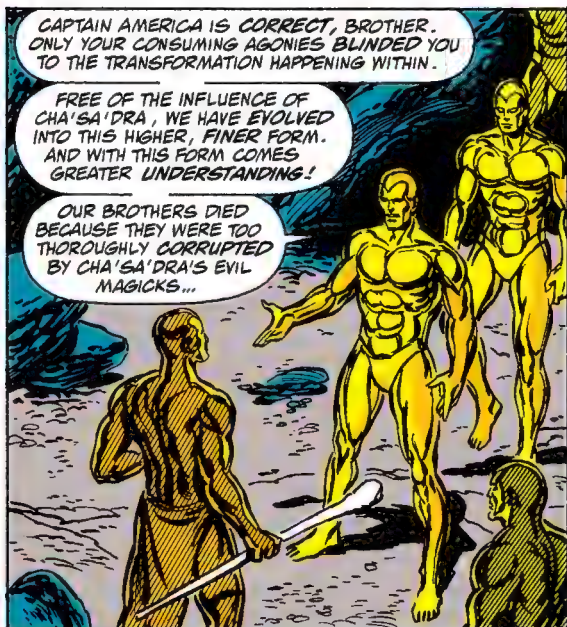
HE IS OURS NOW  
TO CONTROL.

WHO...??











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CODE  
AUTHORITY

# AVENGERS

THE LIFE OF  
AN ETERNAL  
HANGS BY A  
THREAD--

--AND ONLY ONE  
BEING ON EARTH  
HAS THE POWER TO  
SAVE GILGAMESH!



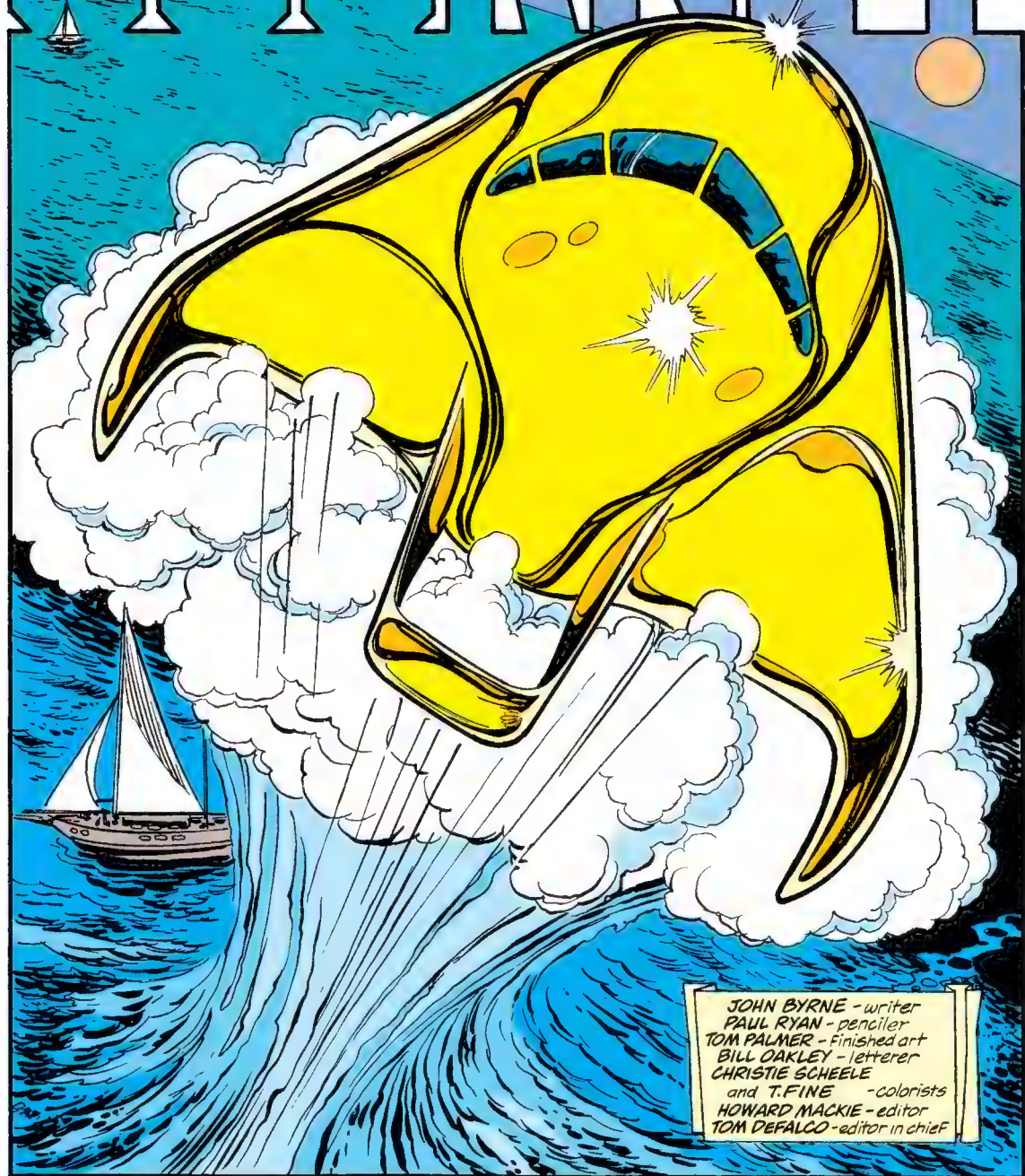
KRISTY BAKER



Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

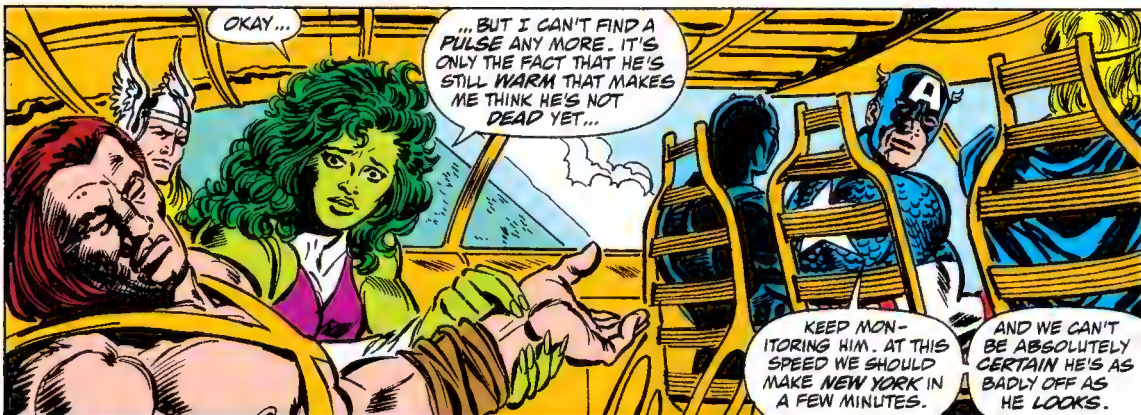
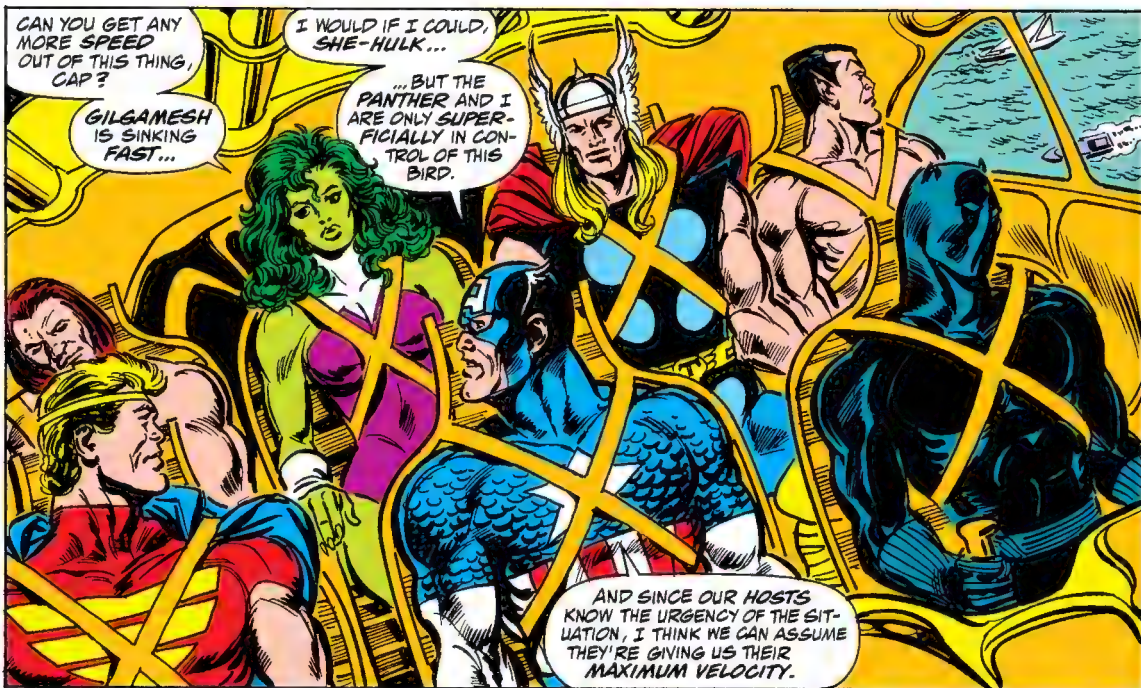
**THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

# JOURNEY

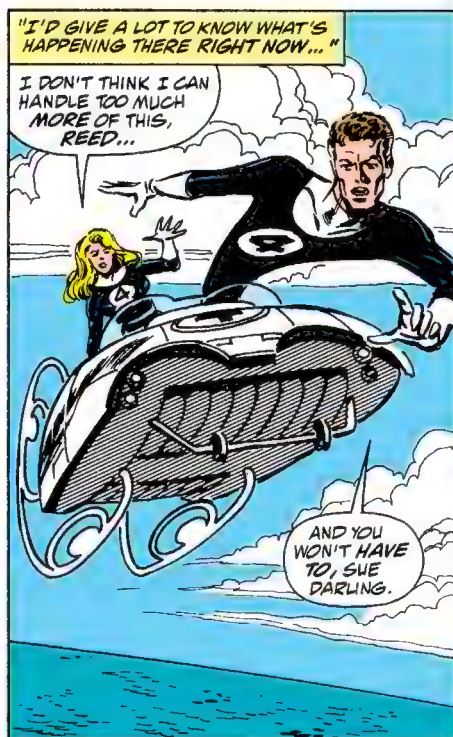
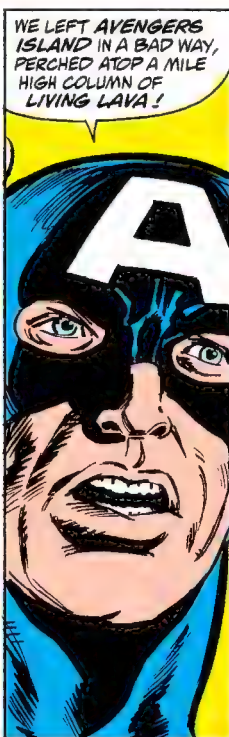
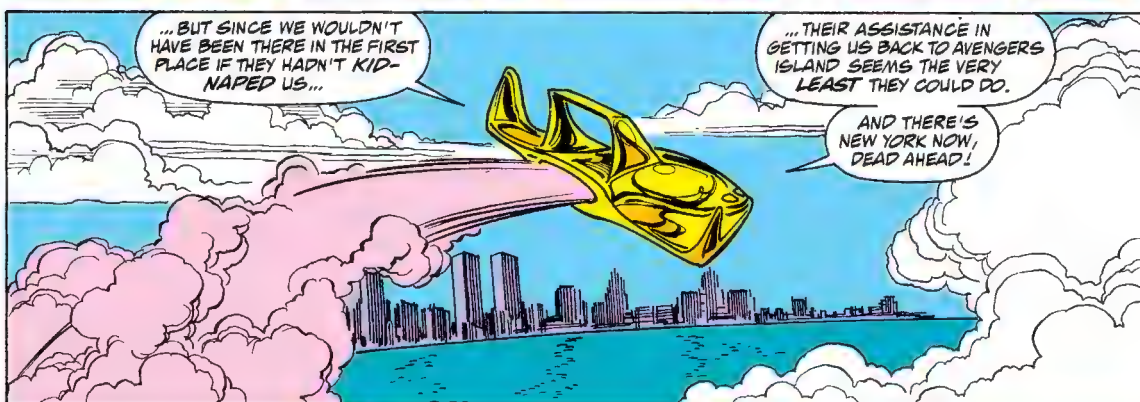
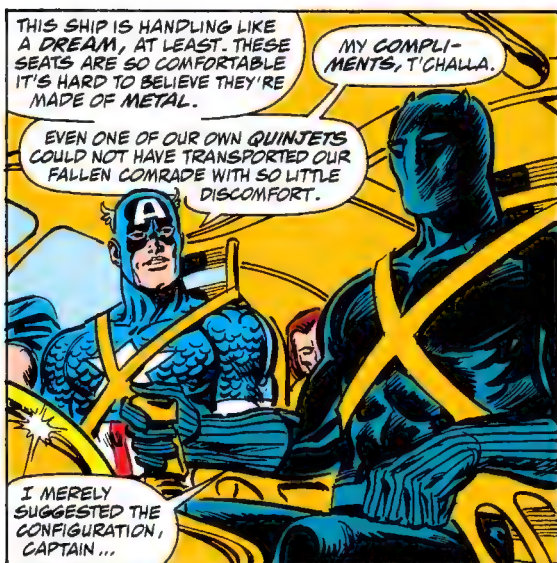


JOHN BYRNE - writer  
PAUL RYAN - penciler  
TOM PALMER - finished art  
BILL OAKLEY - letterer  
CHRISTIE SCHEELE  
and T.FINE - colorists  
HOWARD MACKIE - editor  
TOM DEFALCO - editor in chief

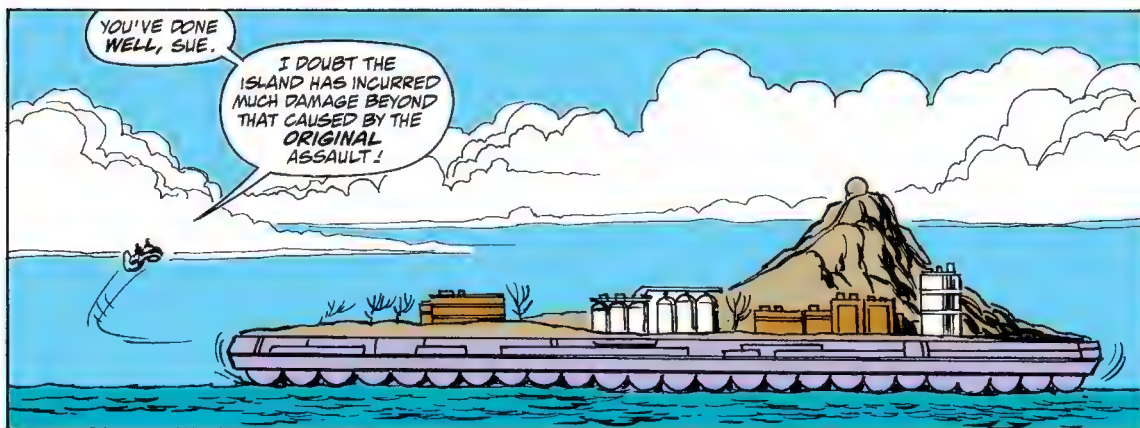
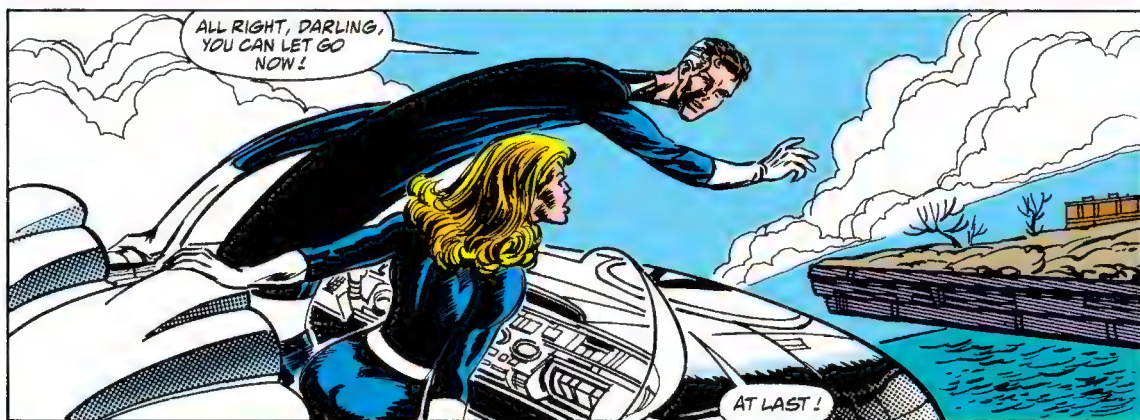
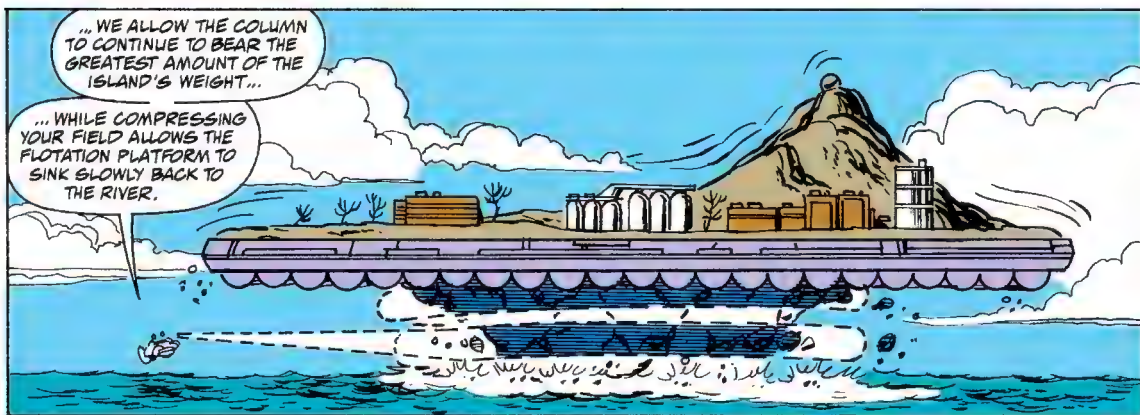
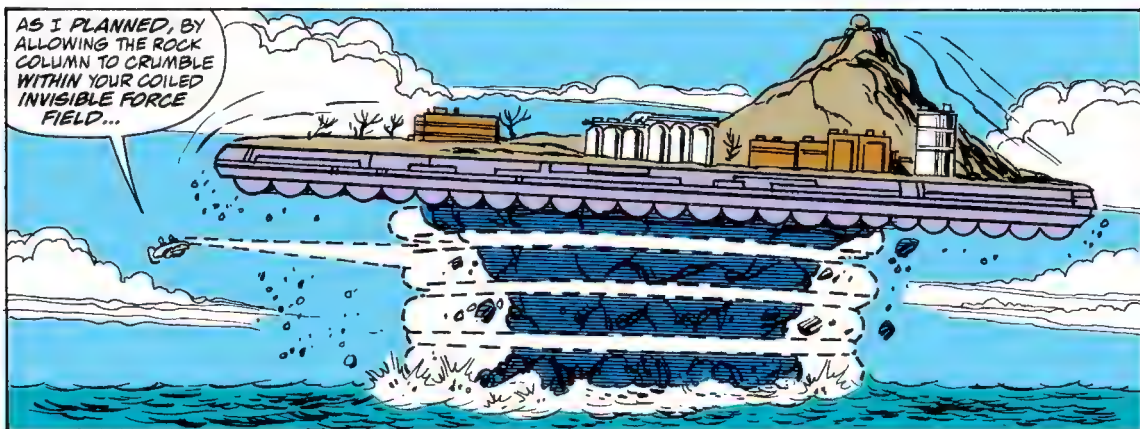




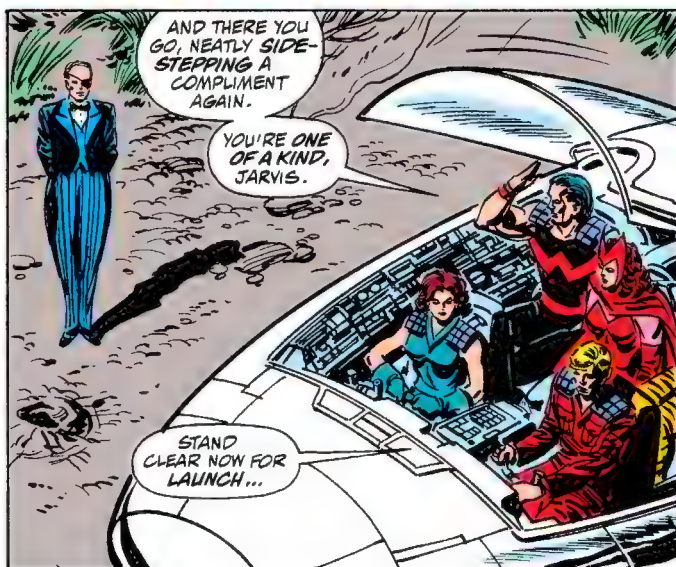
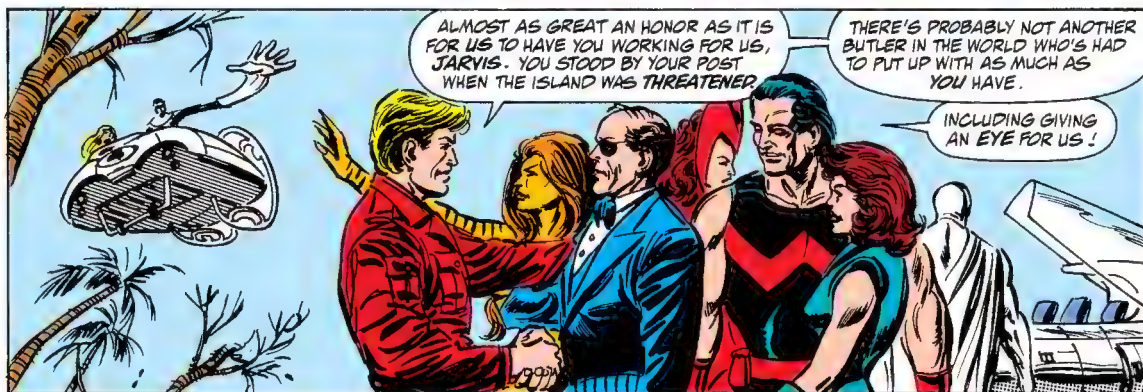




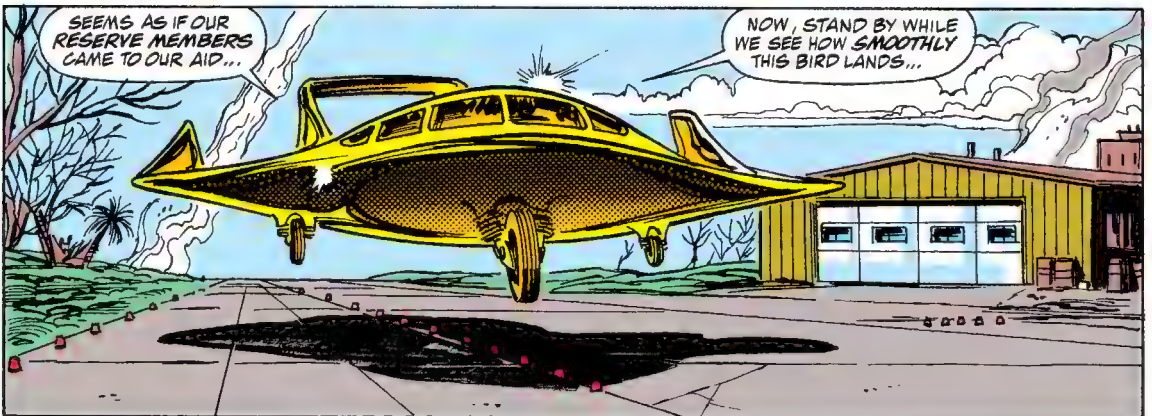
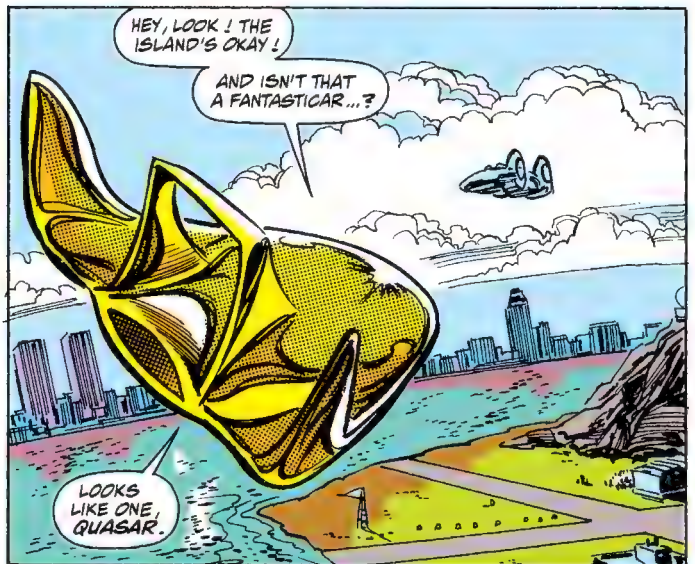
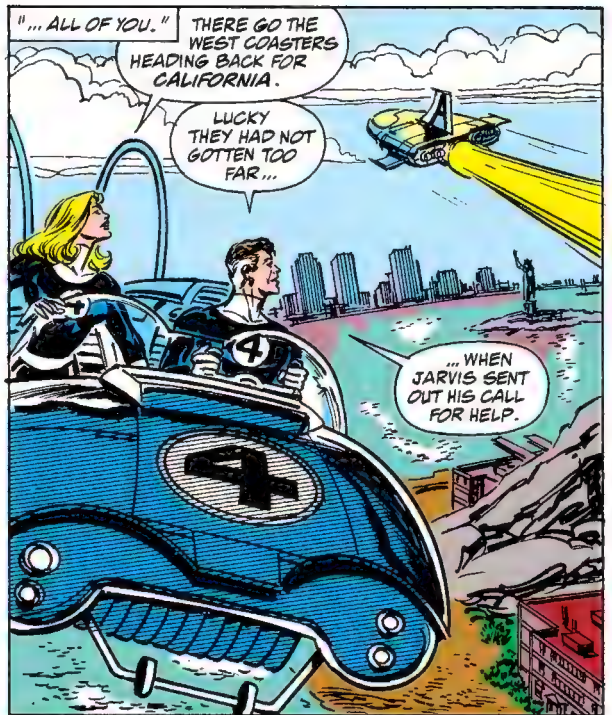




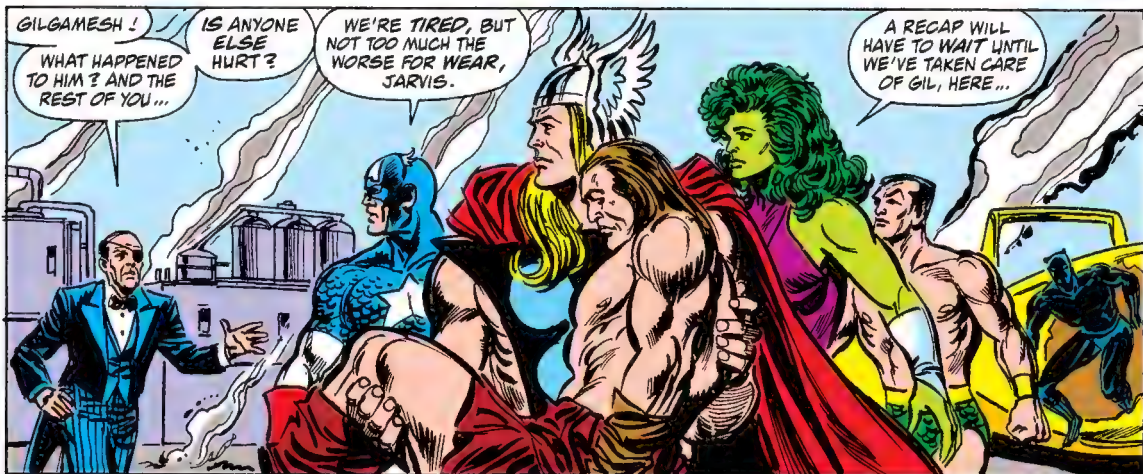




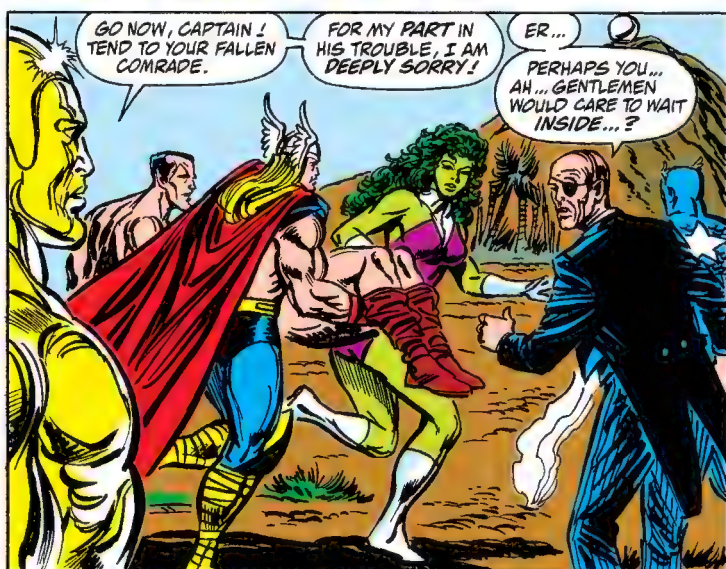
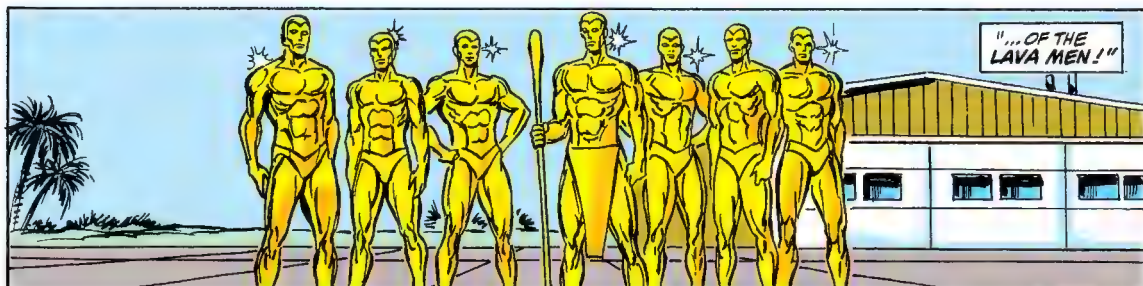
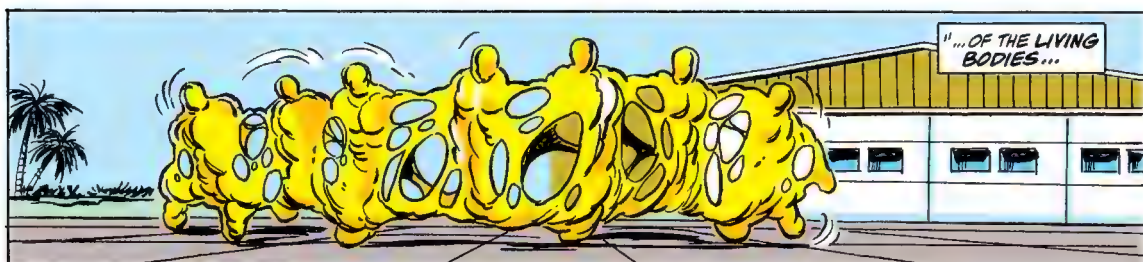
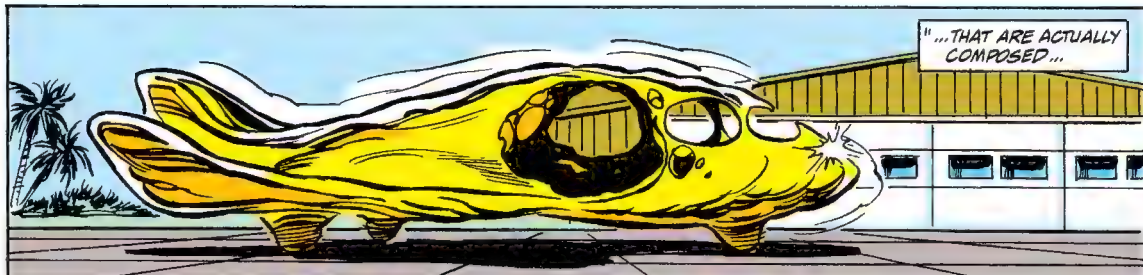
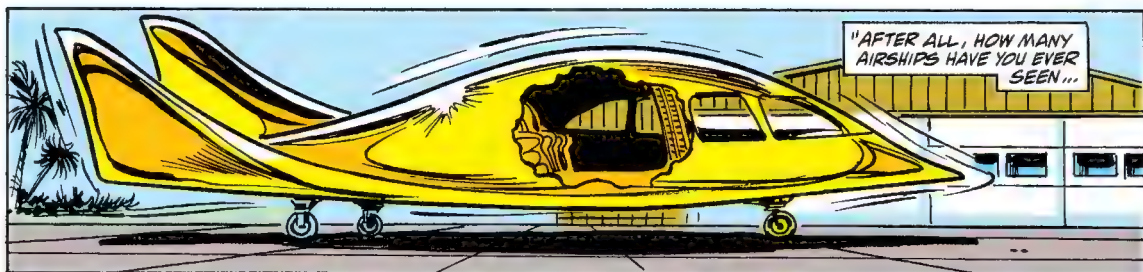




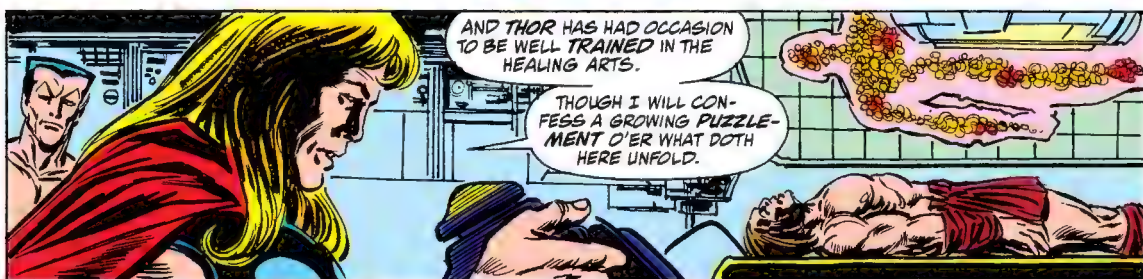
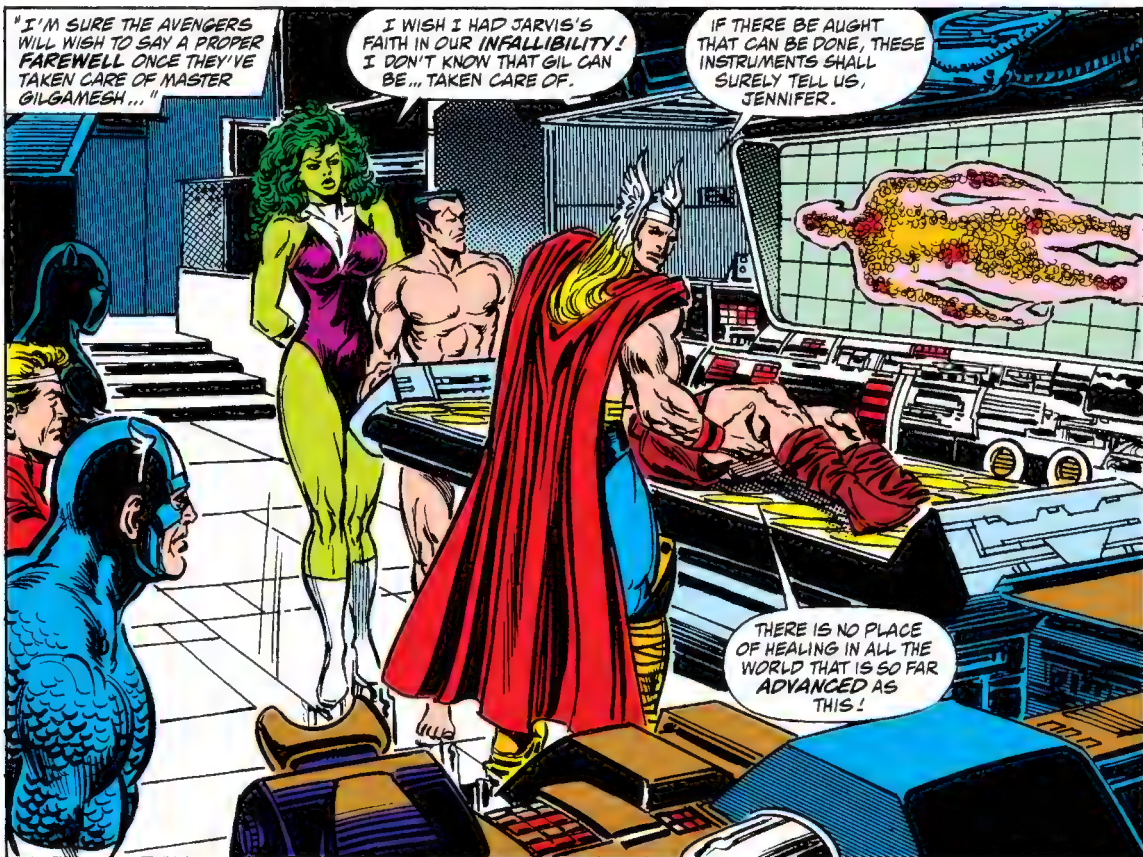




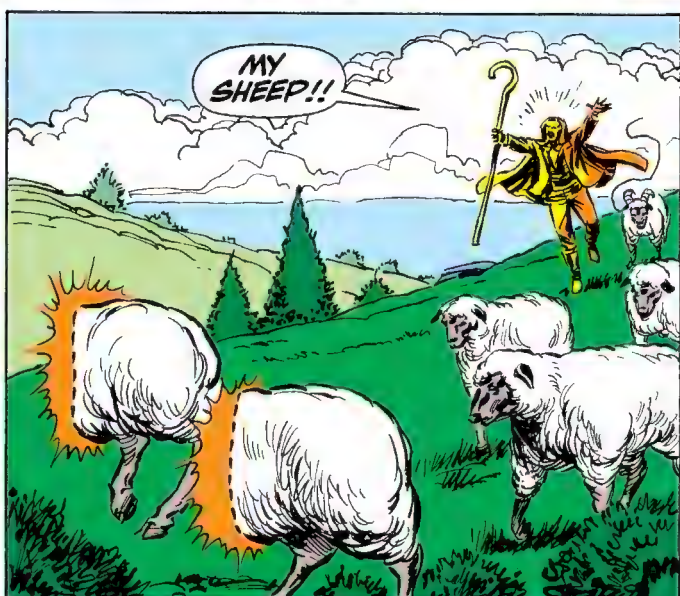
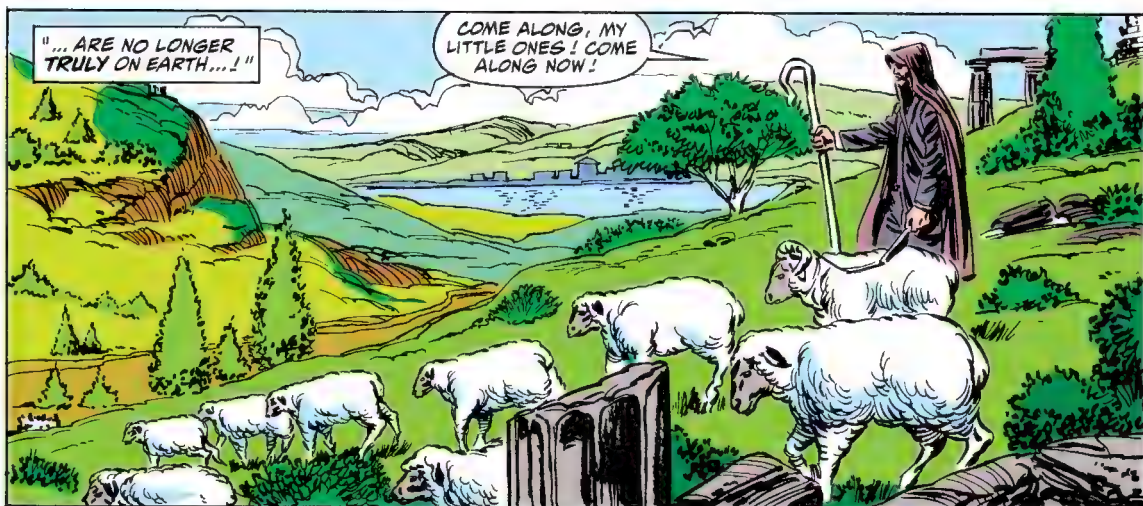




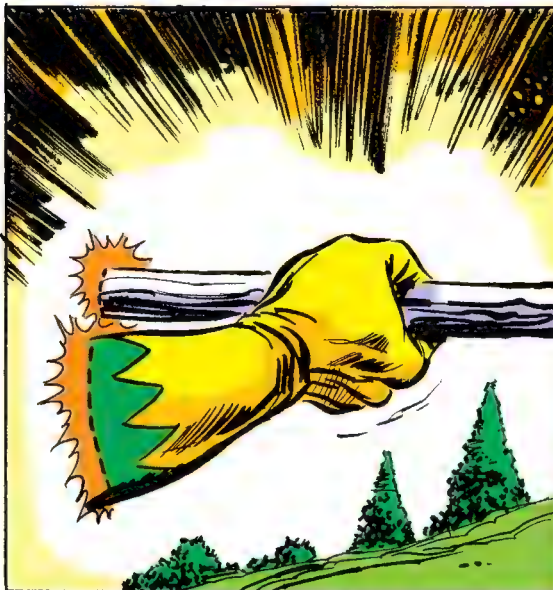
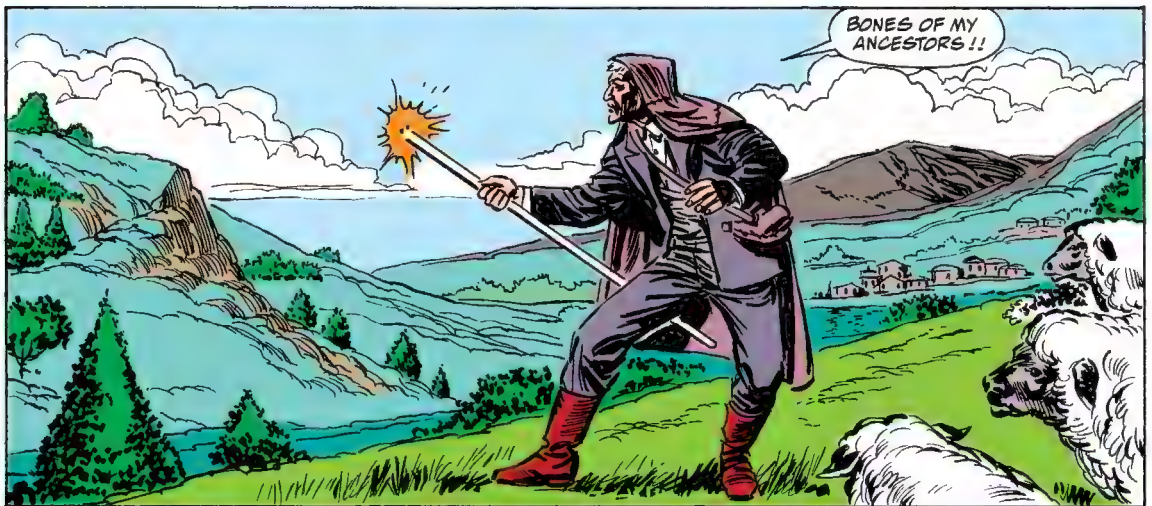




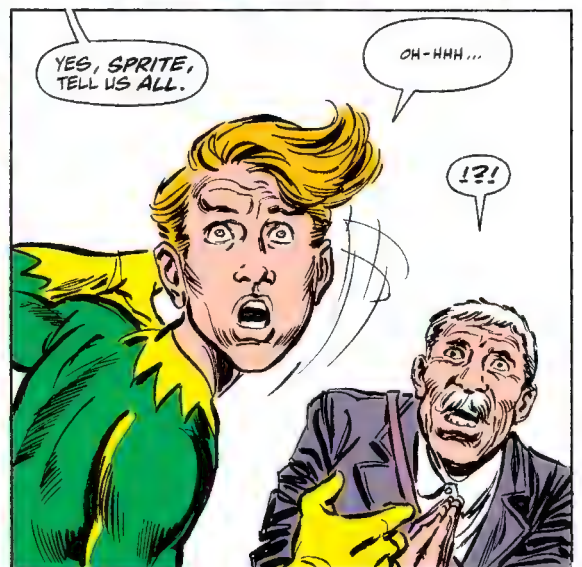
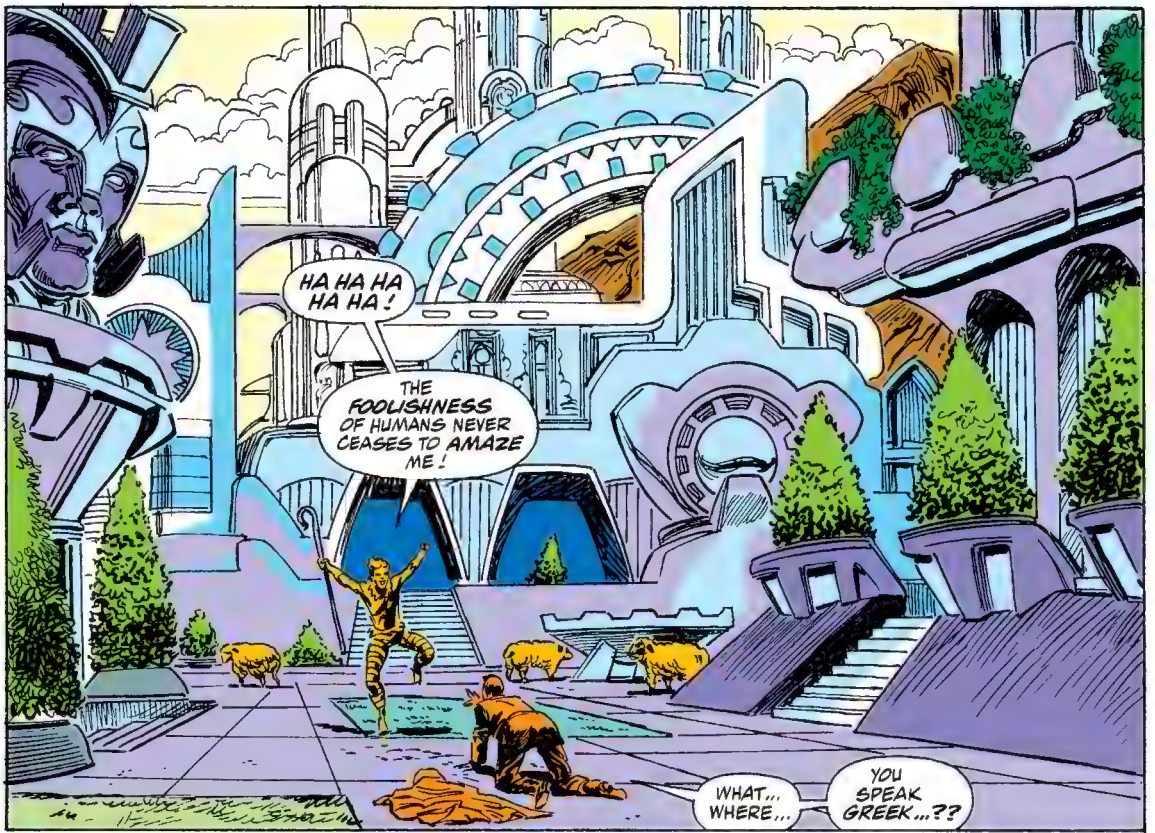




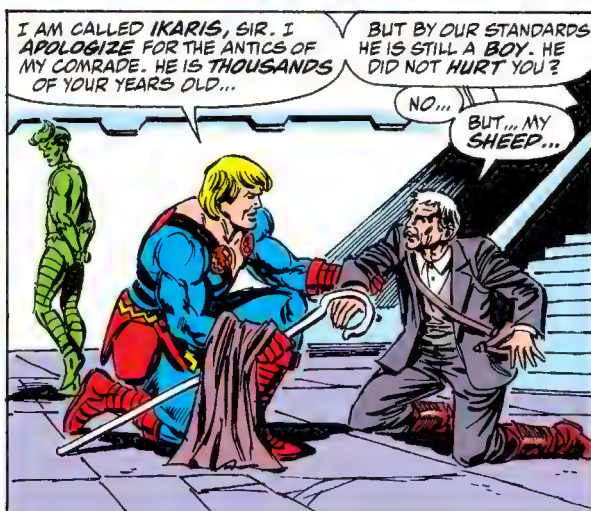
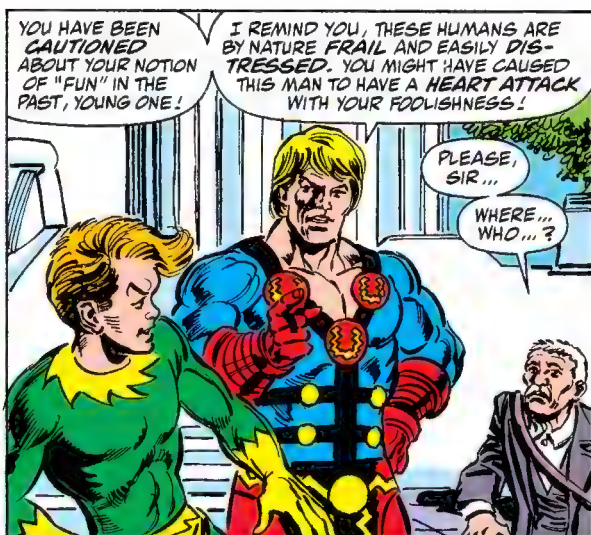




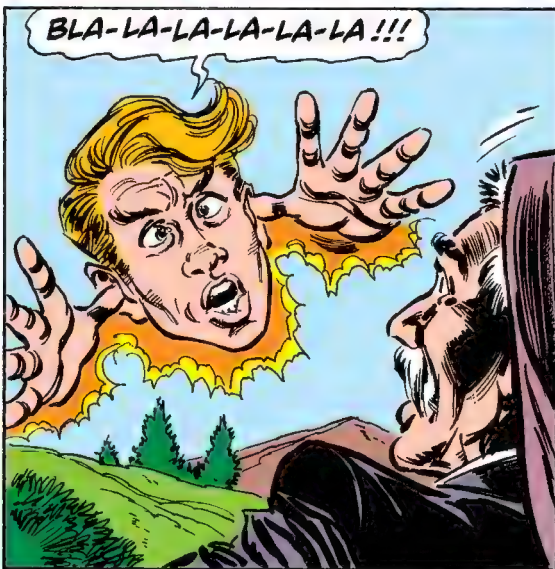
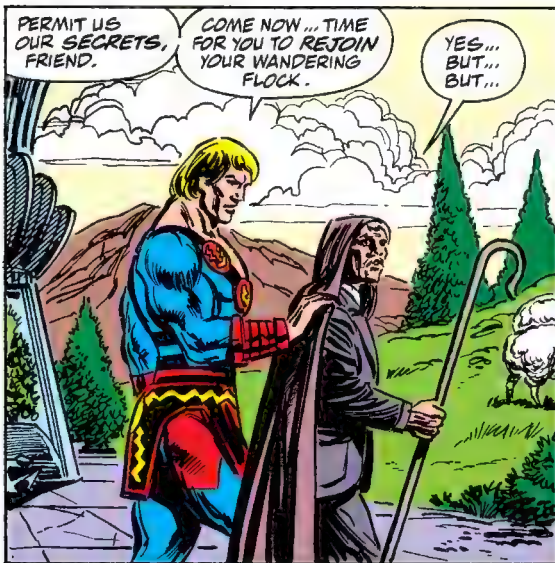




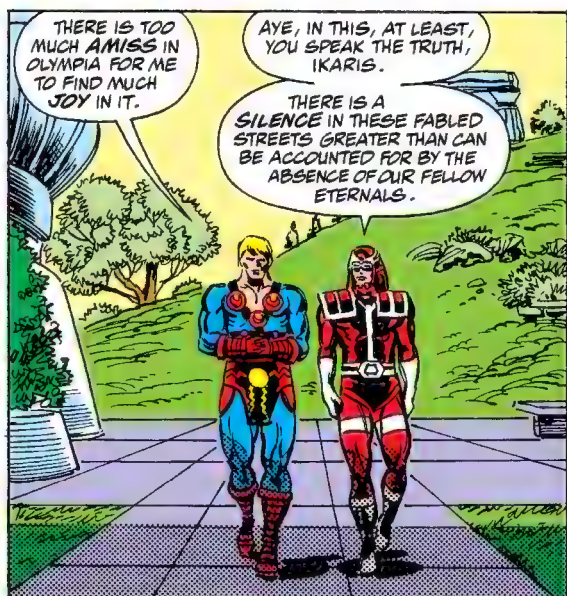
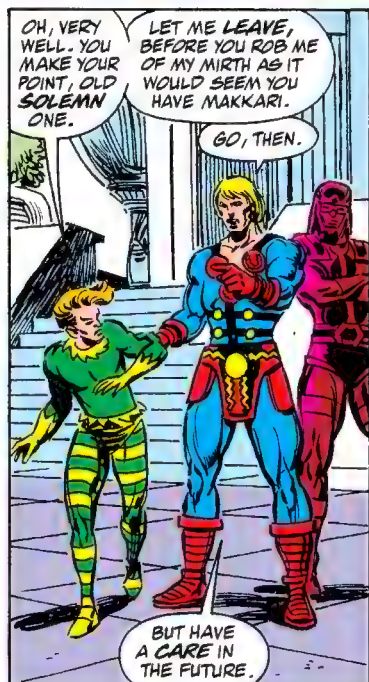
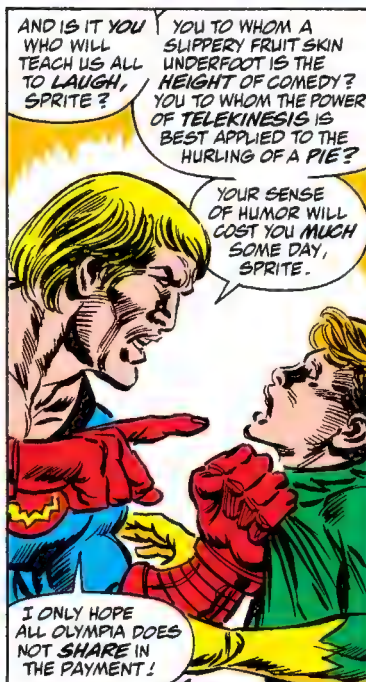
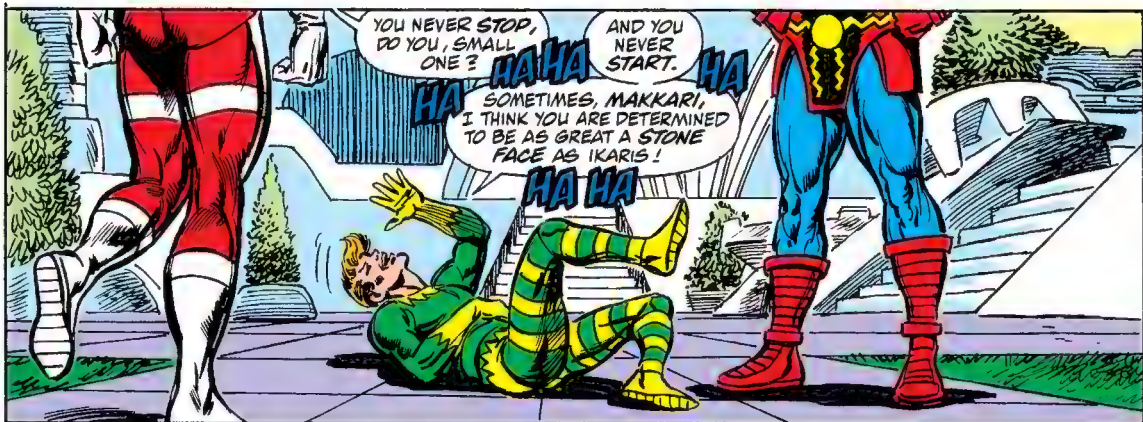




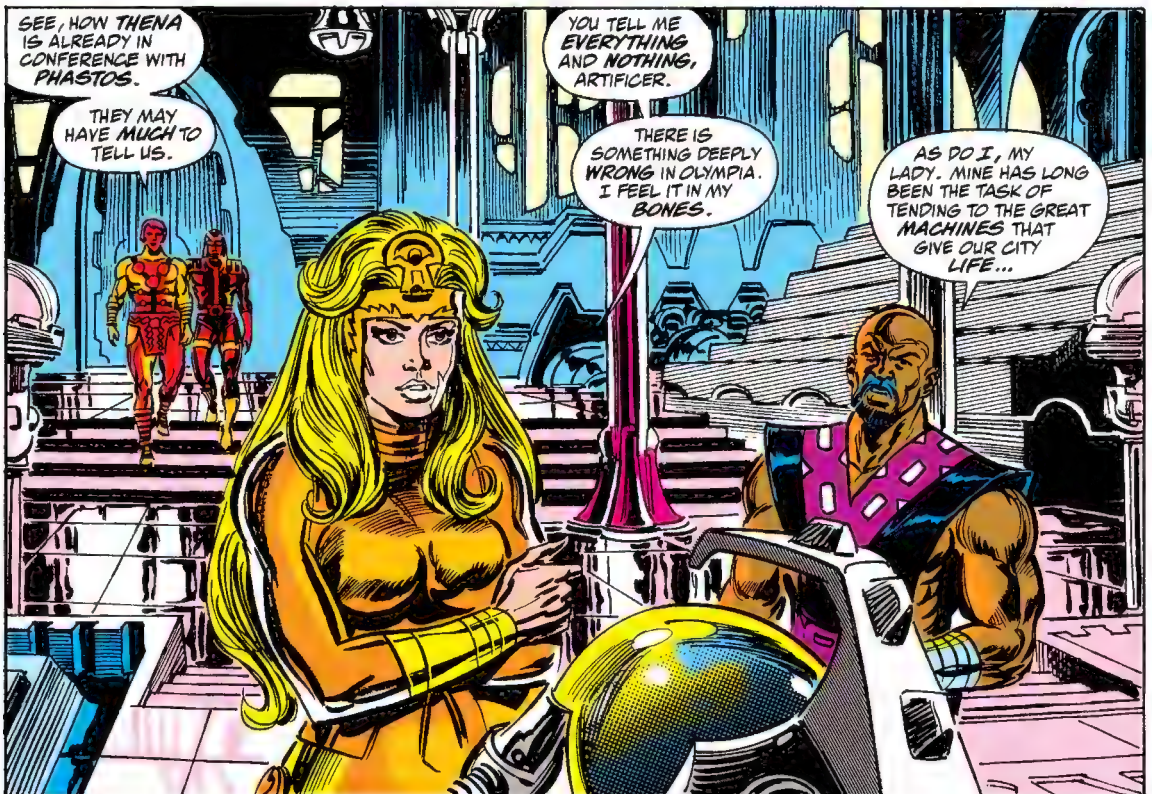
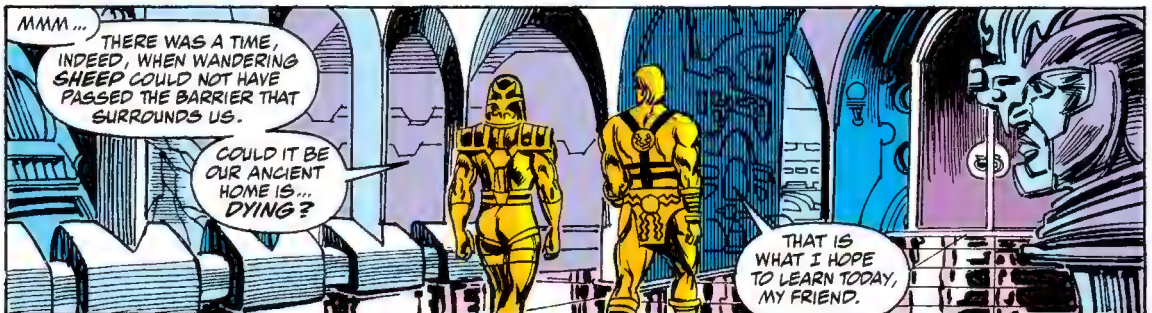
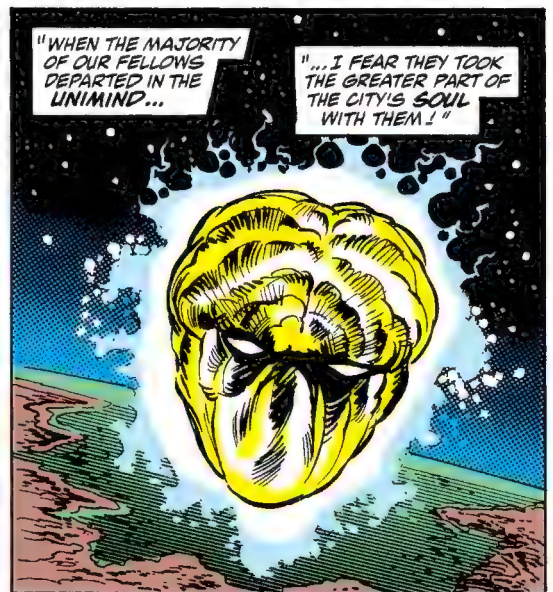














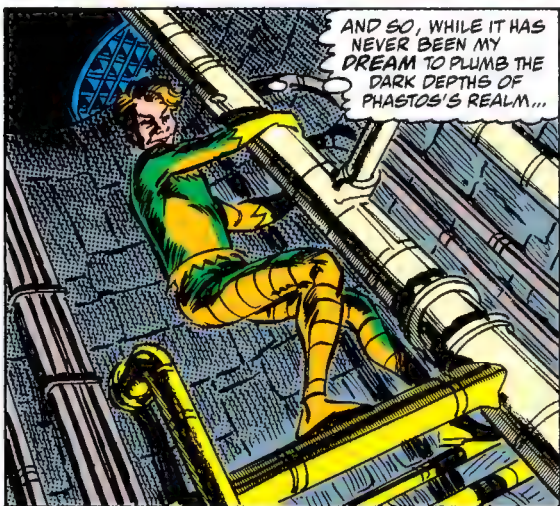






IF ANYTHING IS TO BE  
DONE TO INCREASE  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF  
OUR PROTECTION...

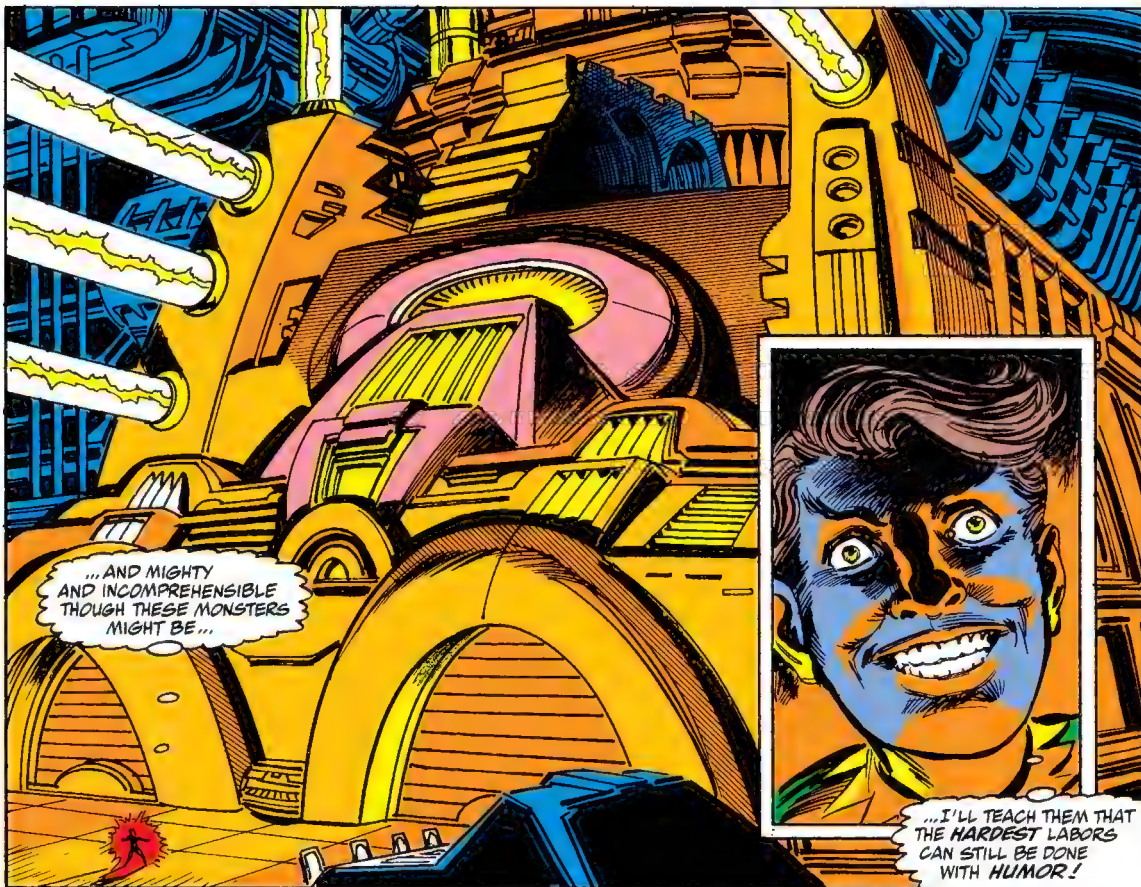
...IT SHOULD  
BE DONE WITH  
FLAIR!



AND SO, WHILE IT HAS  
NEVER BEEN MY  
DREAM TO PLUMB THE  
DARK DEPTHS OF  
PHASTOS'S REALM...



...I KNOW MANY WAYS  
BY WHICH I CAN GET  
DOWN TO HIS MACHINES  
BEFORE HE DOES...

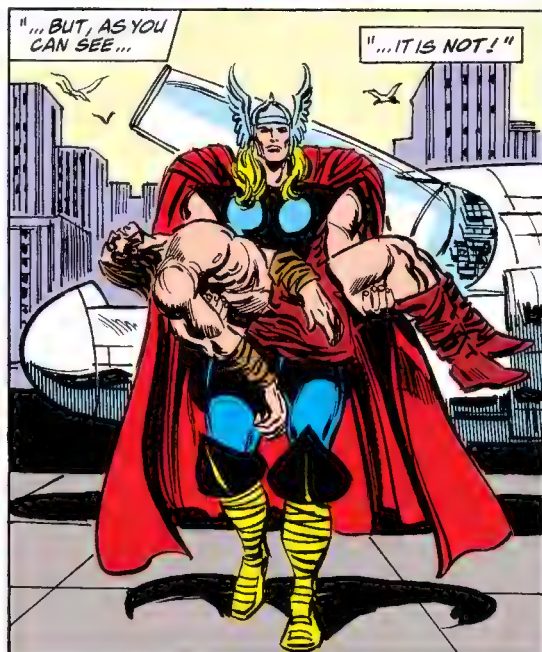
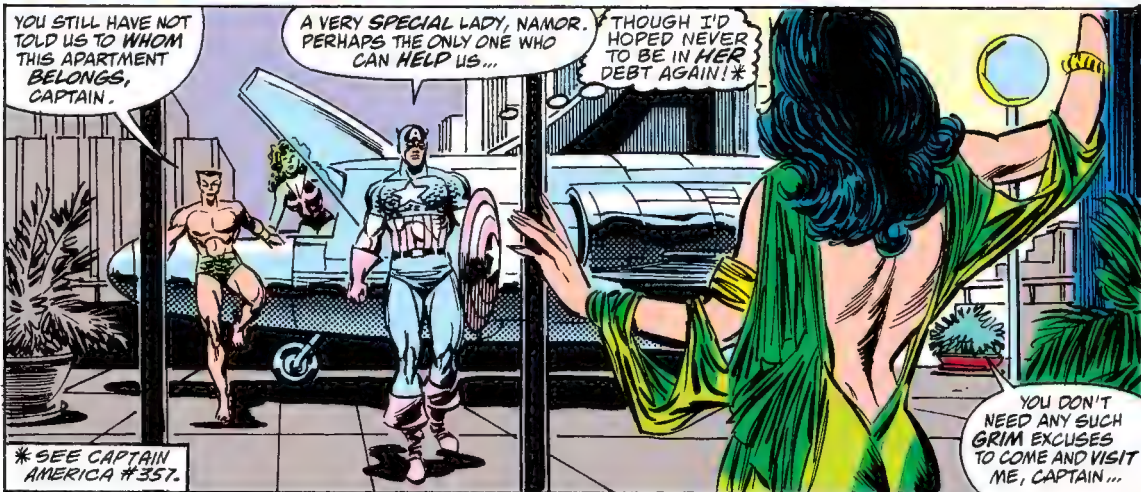


...AND MIGHTY  
AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE  
THOUGH THESE MONSTERS  
MIGHT BE...

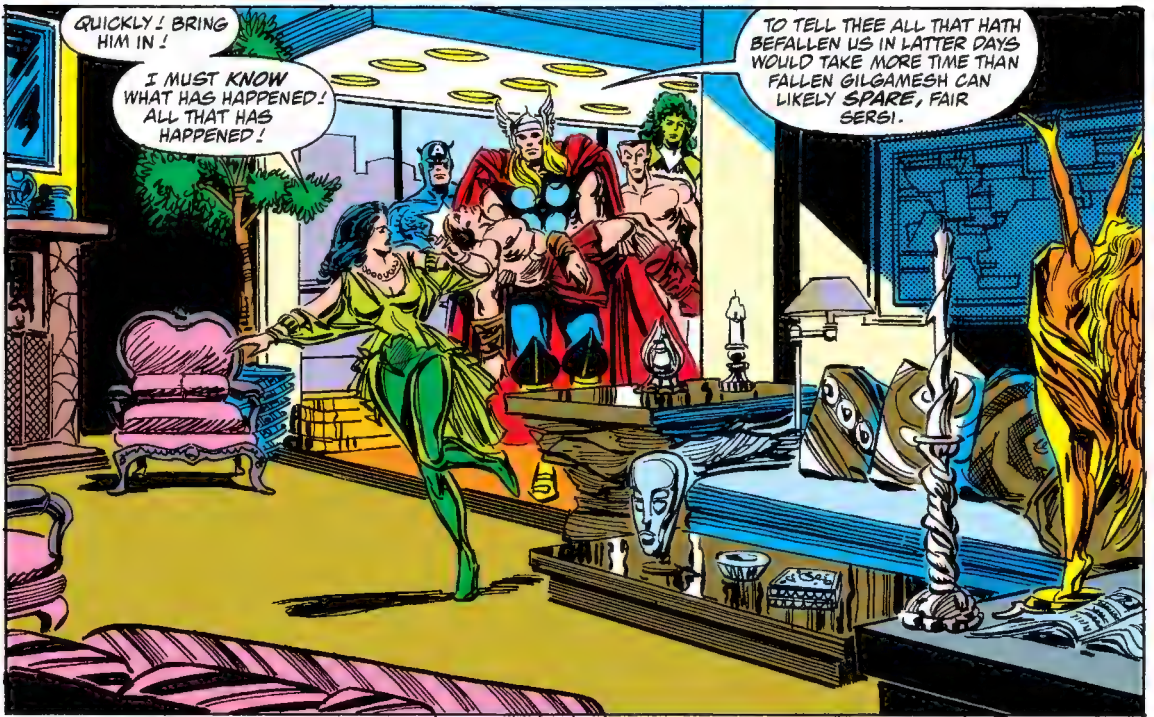


...I'LL TEACH THEM THAT  
THE HARDEST LABORS  
CAN STILL BE DONE  
WITH HUMOR!





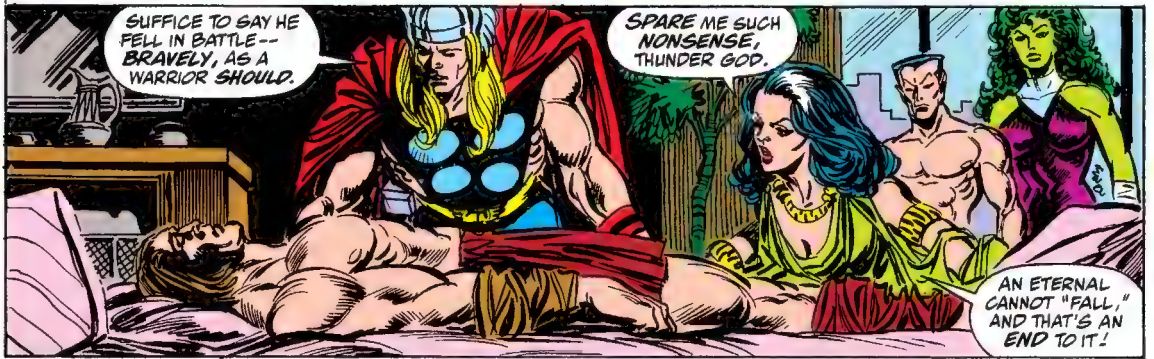




QUICKLY! BRING HIM IN!

I MUST KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED! ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED!

TO TELL THEE ALL THAT HATH BEFALLEN US IN LATTER DAYS WOULD TAKE MORE TIME THAN FALLEN GILGAMESH CAN LIKELY SPARE, FAIR SERGI.



SUFFICE TO SAY HE FELL IN BATTLE-- BRAVELY, AS A WARRIOR SHOULD.

SPARE ME SUCH NONSENSE, THUNDER GOD.

AN ETERNAL CANNOT "FALL," AND THAT'S AN END TO IT!



TO SAY SUCH IS TO DISPUTE THE...

...UH-NHH...

THOR!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OLD FRIEND?

A... PASSING WEAKNESS, CAPTAIN.

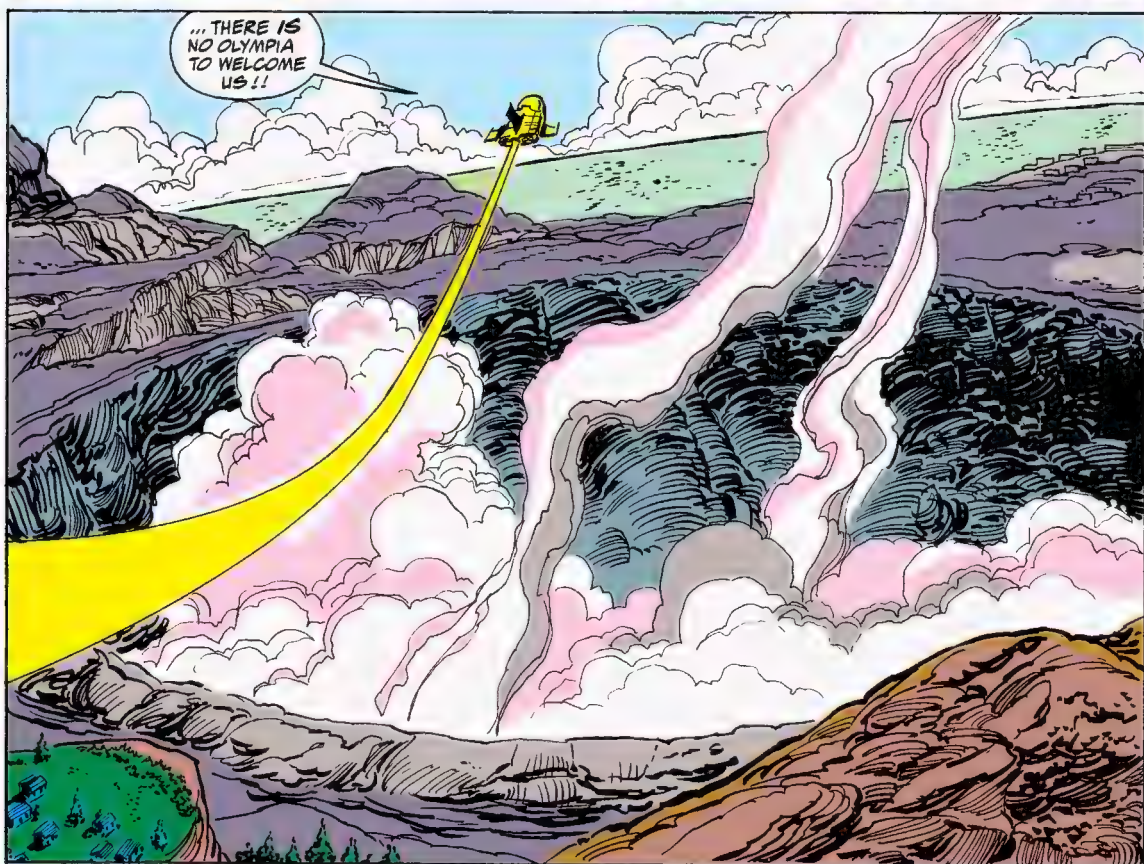
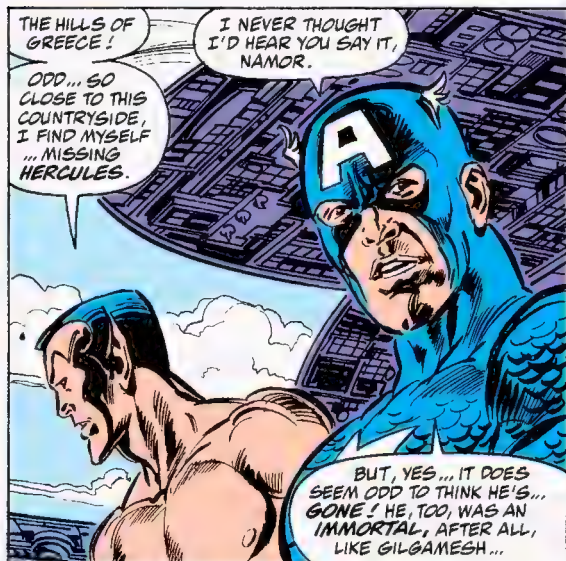
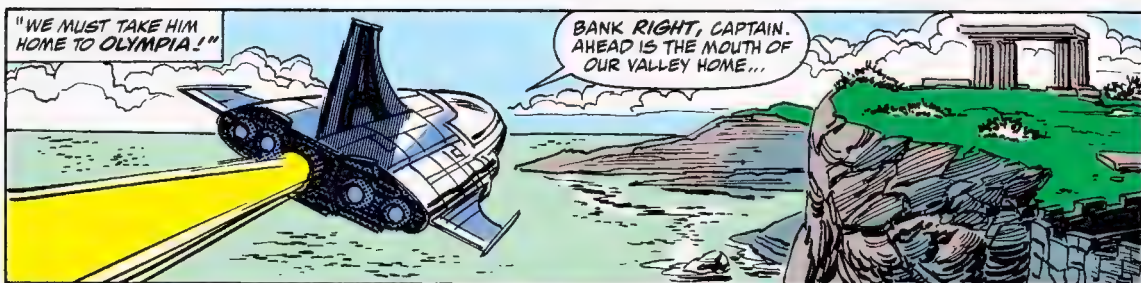
CONCERN THYSELF WITH GILGAMESH, AND NOT WITH ME!



HE HAS NO PULSE! I READ NO ACTIVITY IN HIS MIND!

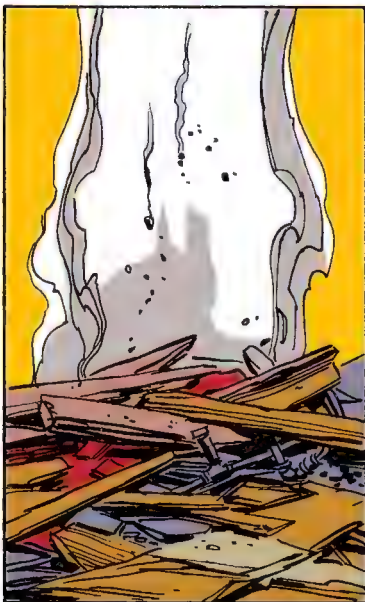
IN ALL MY CENTURIES OF LIFE, I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ETERNAL IN SUCH A CONDITION. THERE IS BUT ONE THING WE CAN DO...





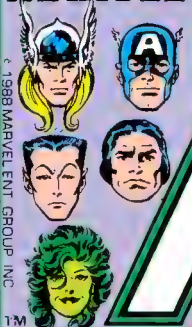


MEANWHILE IN CRESKILL, NEW JERSEY...





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# AVENGERS<sup>®</sup>

INTO THE  
NEGATIVE  
ZONE!



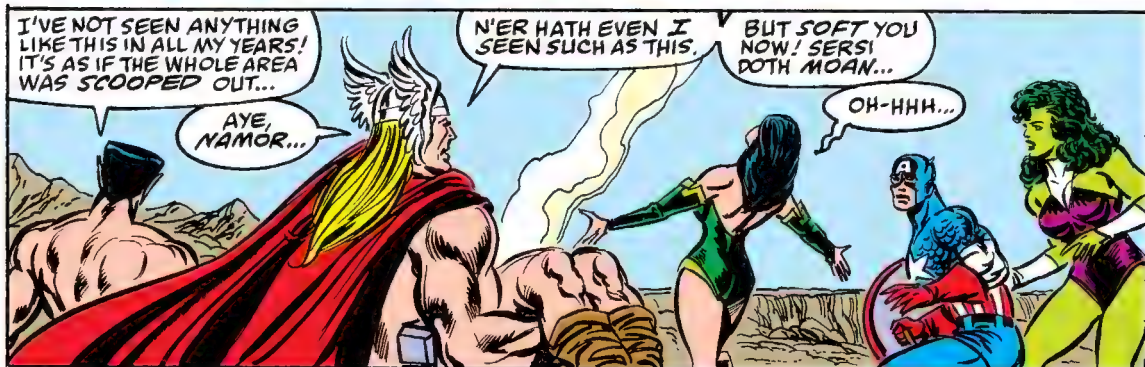


Stan Lee  
PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY *AVENGERS!***  
**TO FIND**  
**OLYMPIA!**

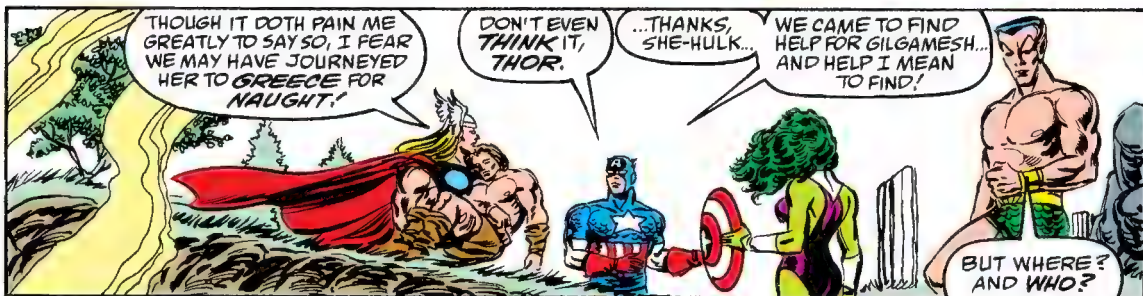
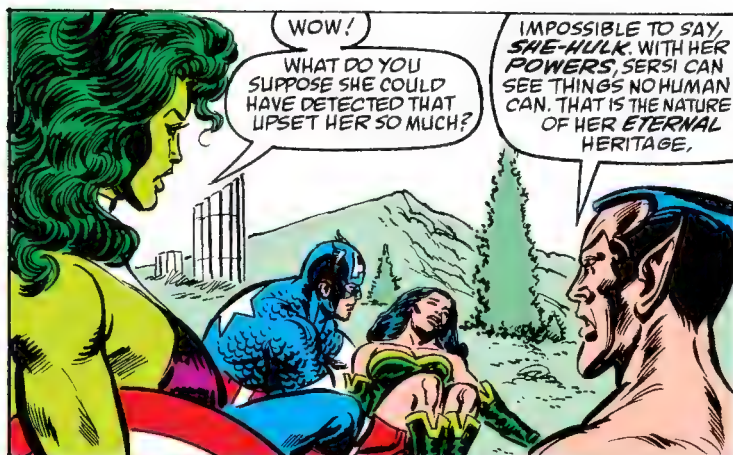
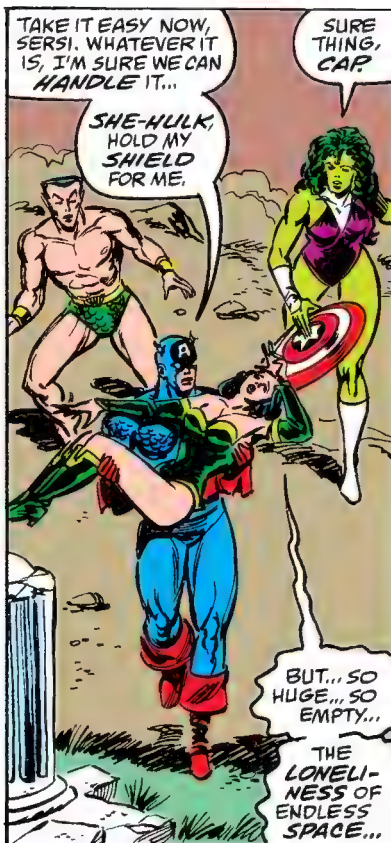


JOHN BYRNE   PAUL RYAN & TOM PALMER   RICK PARKER   CHRISTIE SCHEELE   HOWARD MACKIE   TOM D. FALCO  
STORY   PICTURES   LETTERING   COLORING   EDITOR   ED. IN CHIEF

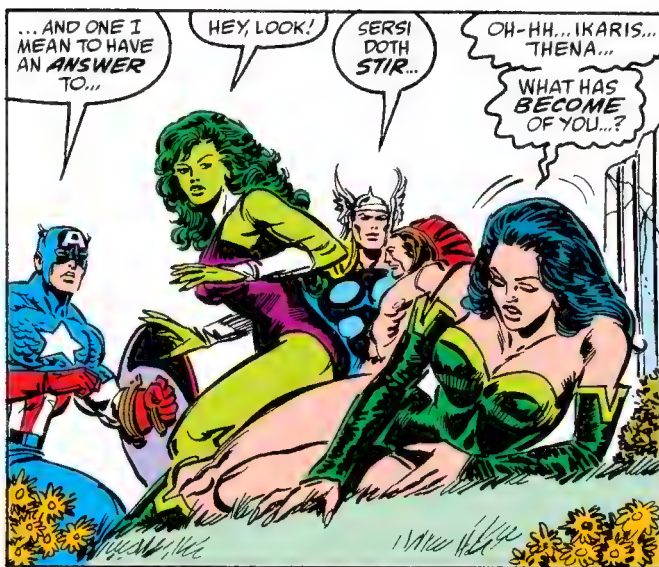












... AND ONE I MEAN TO HAVE AN ANSWER TO...

HEY, LOOK!

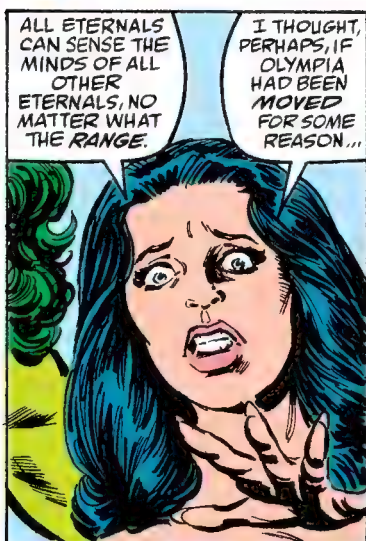
SERSI DO TH STIR...

OH-HH... IKARIS... THENA...  
WHAT HAS BECOME OF YOU...?

SERSI... ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?

I... AM NOT SURE, SHE-HULK.

I HAVE NEVER SENSED SUCH... STRANGENESS BEFORE.



ALL ETERNALS CAN SENSE THE MINDS OF ALL OTHER ETERNALS, NO MATTER WHAT THE RANGE.

I THOUGHT, PERHAPS, IF OLYMPIA HAD BEEN MOVED FOR SOME REASON...



... I MIGHT YET BE ABLE TO CONTACT MY FELLOWS IF I SCANNED WIDELY ENOUGH,

SO I REACHED OUT WITH MY MIND AND FOUND THEM.

THEY ARE NEAR...



BUT THEY ARE NO LONGER ON EARTH!



NEAR... BUT NOT ON EARTH? YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE, SERSI.

EASE UP, CAP SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT, HERE.

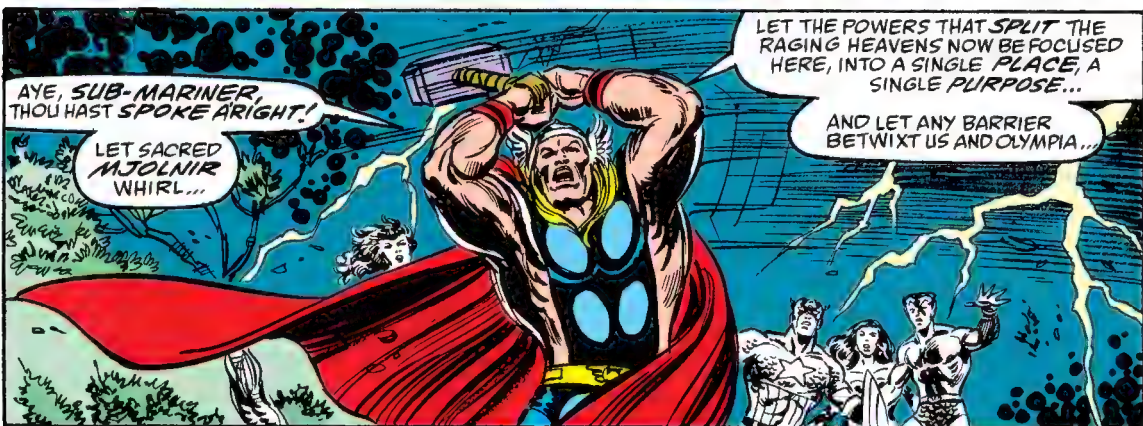
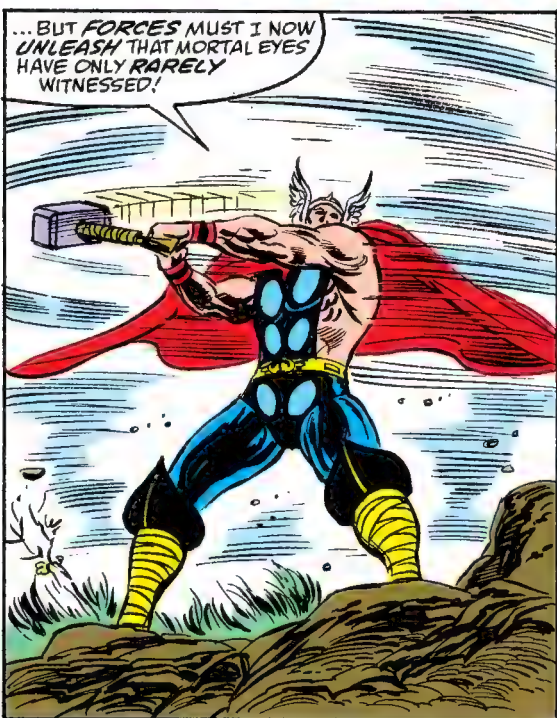


I'M NOT INSENSITIVE TO THAT FACT, JENNIFER.

I JUST WANT A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT THIS IS WE'RE DEALING WITH, IN ORDER TO FORMULATE A PLAN.

METHINKS THE SON OF ODIN MAY ALREADY COMPREHEND THAT OF WHICH SERSI DO TH SPEAK, AVENGER.













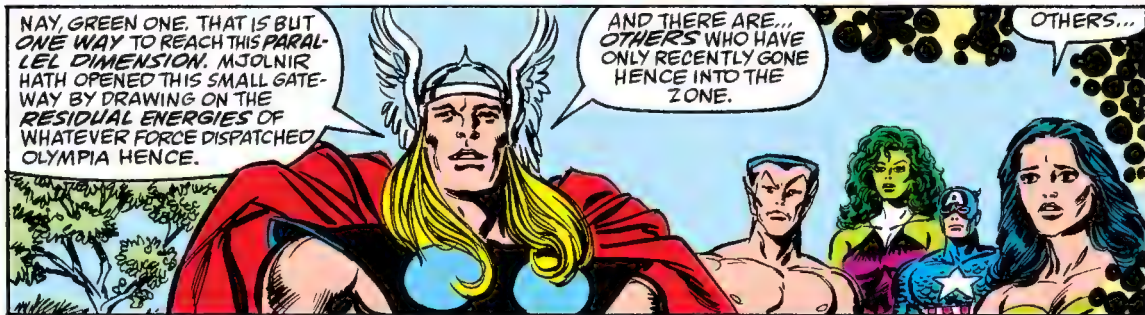
YES! THERE! THERE IN THE LINENDING MYRIAD OF SHIFTING REALITIES!

THAT IS WHERE OLYMPIA NOW LIES!



IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE?

BUT... HOW THE HECK DID IT GET THERE? I THOUGHT THE ONLY ACCESS WAS THROUGH THE PORTAL IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HEADQUARTERS.



NAY, GREEN ONE. THAT IS BUT ONE WAY TO REACH THIS PARALLEL DIMENSION. MJOLNIR HATH OPENED THIS SMALL GATEWAY BY DRAWING ON THE RESIDUAL ENERGIES OF WHATEVER FORCE DISPATCHED OLYMPIA HENCE.

AND THERE ARE... OTHERS WHO HAVE ONLY RECENTLY GONE HENCE INTO THE ZONE.

OTHERS...



THE TIME FOR DISCUSSION SEEMS LONG PAST, AVENGERS.

IF THIS IS THE WAY TO OLYMPIA, AND OLYMPIA IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR GILGAMESH...

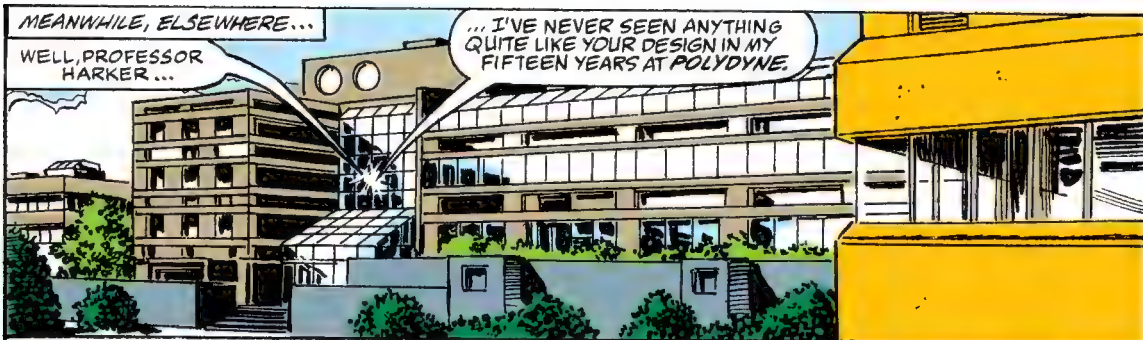
YES, PRINCE NAMOR, YOU ARE RIGHT.



WE MUST GO NOW WHERE OLYMPIA HAS GONE...

...INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE!





MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...

... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE YOUR DESIGN IN MY FIFTEEN YEARS AT POLYDYNE.

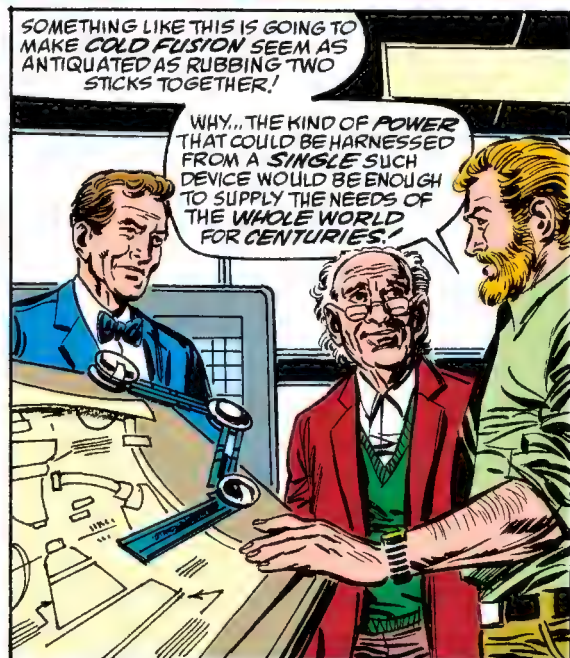
WELL, PROFESSOR HARKER ...



... BUT MY STAFF INFORMS ME THEY CAN'T FIND ANYTHING *AMISS* IN YOUR CALCULATIONS,

I WOULD HOPE NOT, DR. GILLIAN. I'VE SPENT A LIFETIME WORKING THE BUGS OUT OF THE SYSTEM.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!



SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS GOING TO MAKE *COLD FUSION* SEEM AS ANTIQUATED AS RUBBING TWO STICKS TOGETHER!

WHY... THE KIND OF *POWER* THAT COULD BE HARNESSSED FROM A *SINGLE* SUCH DEVICE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE *WHOLE WORLD* FOR CENTURIES!



OH, IT WOULD DO MUCH MORE THAN THAT, MR. SMYTHE.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL TO *RE-SHAPE* THE WORLD, PERHAPS EVEN THE *WHOLE UNIVERSE!*



ER... WELL, LET'S KEEP IT WITHIN *COMPREHENSIBLE* LEVELS, SHALL WE, PROFESSOR?

IF I'M GOING TO SELL MY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON *FINANCING* YOUR PROJECT, I'LL HAVE TO PRESENT IT TO THEM IN A MANNER THEY CAN UNDERSTAND.

OH, YES, OF COURSE. BUSINESSMEN. SMALL MINDS. I QUITE AGREE.

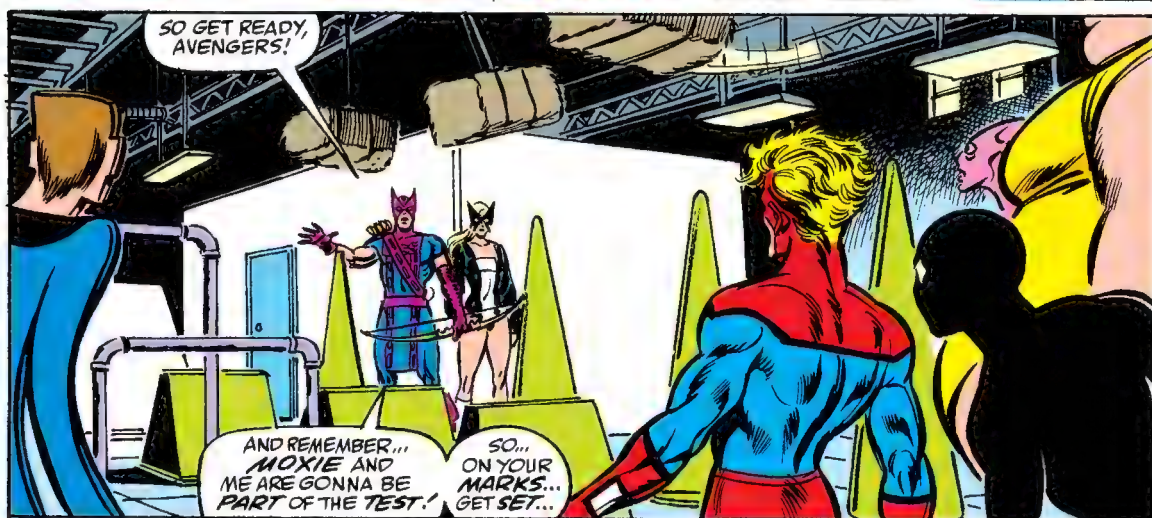
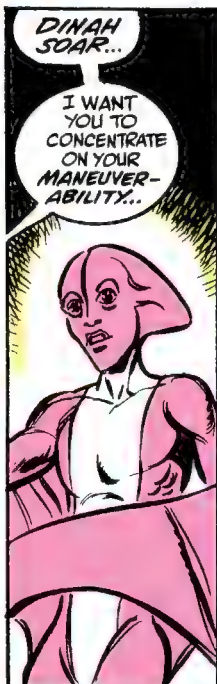
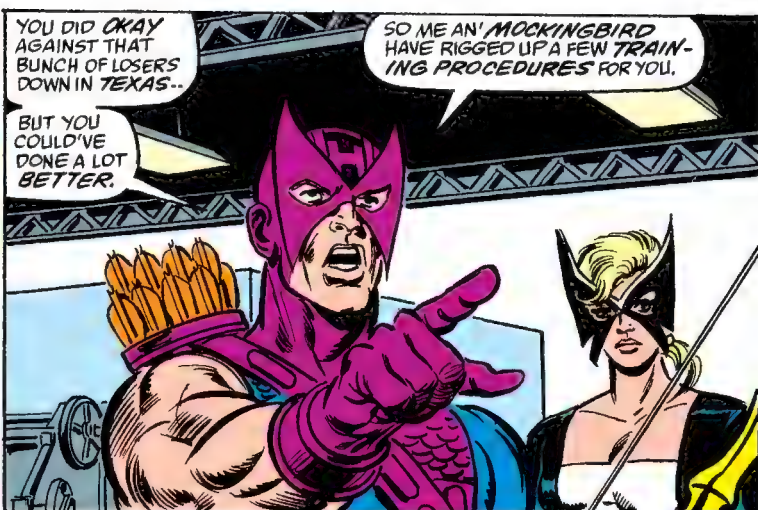


TELL THEM WHAT YOU NEED TO TELL THEM, DR. GILLIAN, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

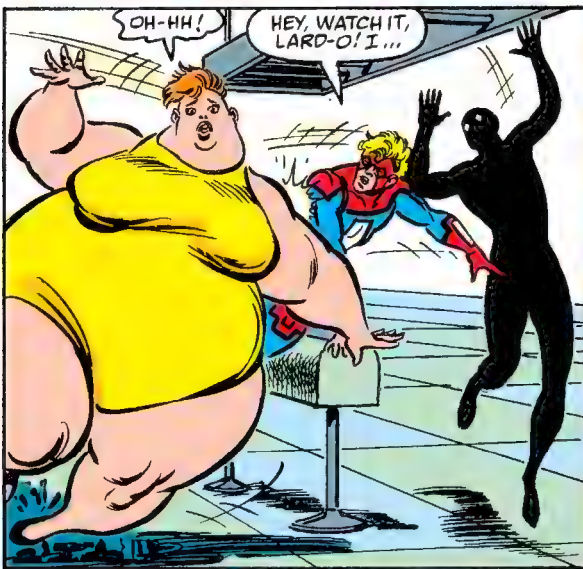
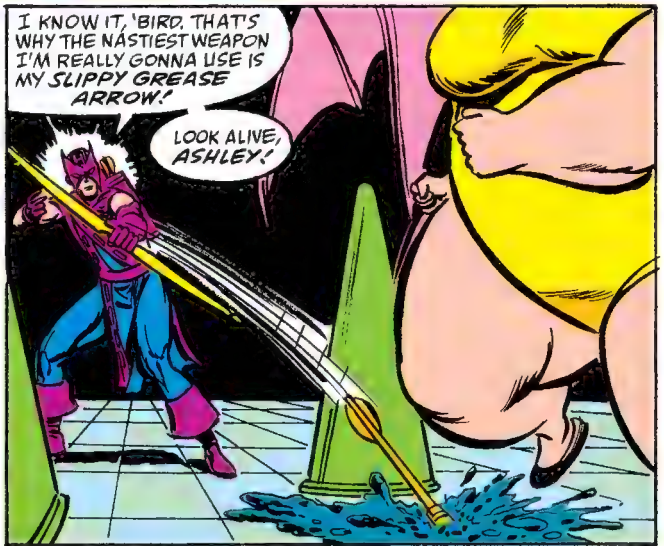
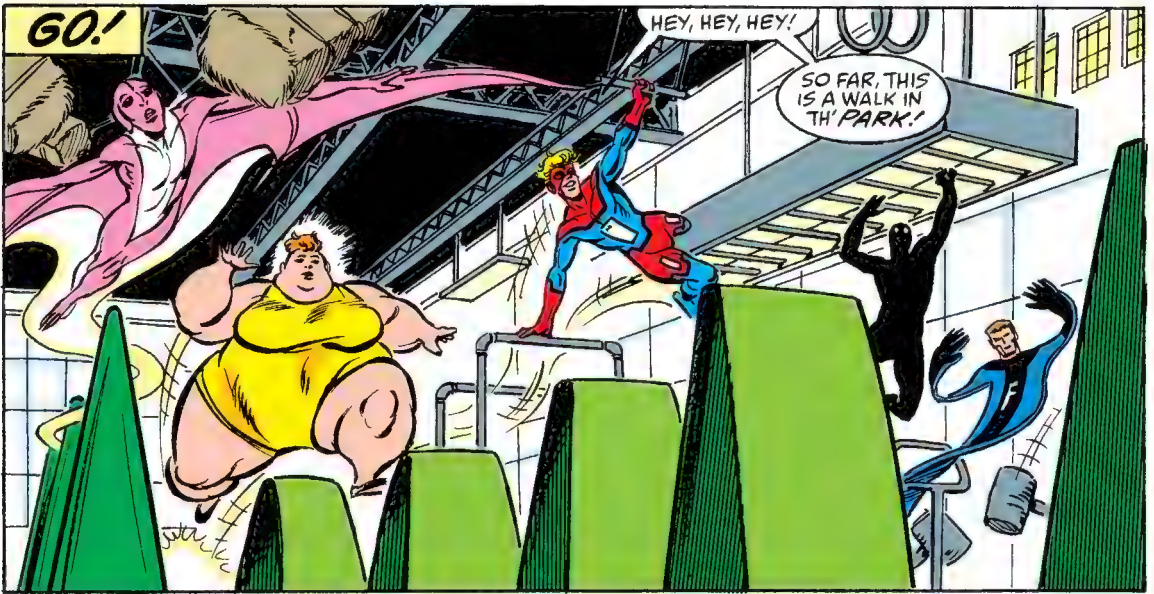
THE *END RESULT* WILL BE PRECISELY THE SAME.

AND WHEN WE'RE DONE...

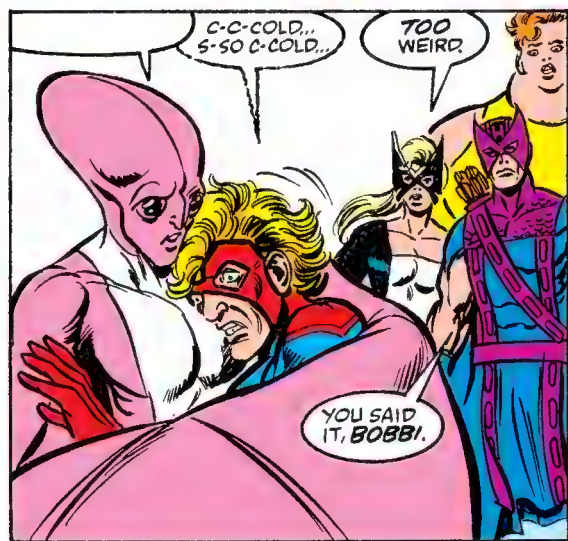
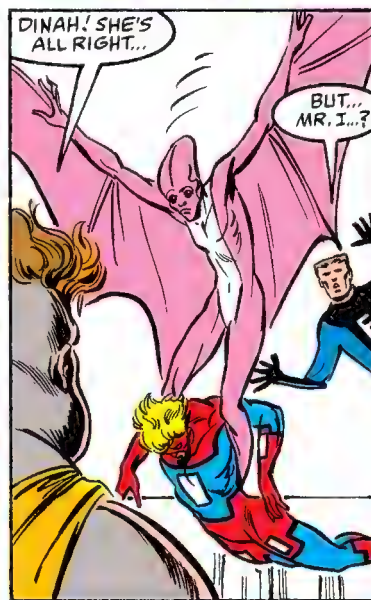
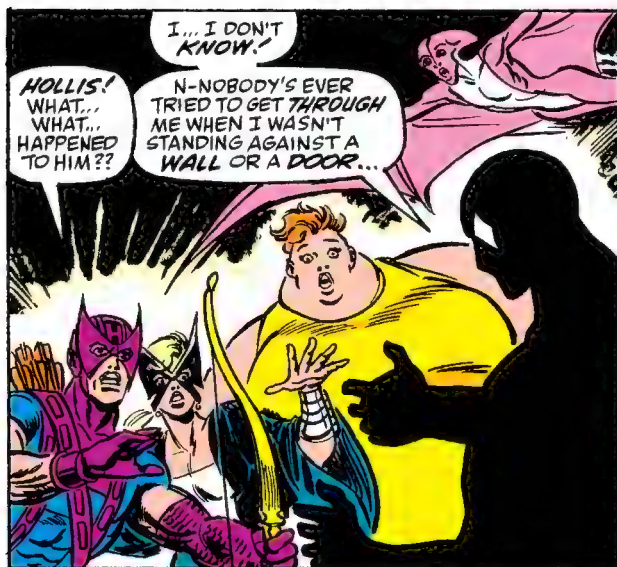










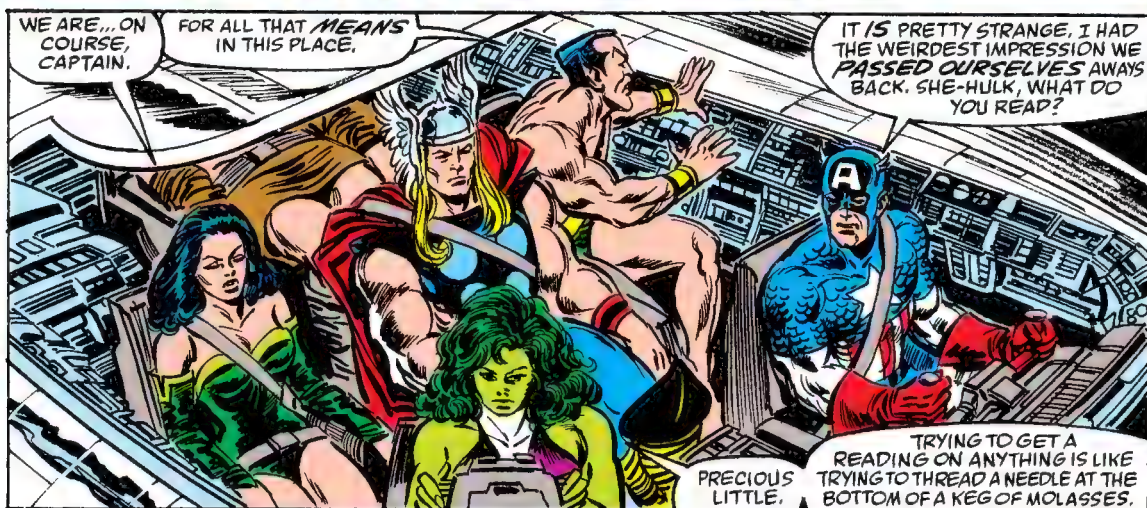






"...AND JUST WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES IS INSIDE YOU!!"

ANYTHING, SERSI?



WE ARE... ON COURSE, CAPTAIN.

FOR ALL THAT MEANS IN THIS PLACE.

IT'S PRETTY STRANGE, I HAD THE WEIRDEST IMPRESSION WE PASSED OURSELVES AWAYS BACK. SHE-HULK, WHAT DO YOU READ?

TRYING TO GET A READING ON ANYTHING IS LIKE TRYING TO THREAD A NEEDLE AT THE BOTTOM OF A KEG OF MOLASSES. PRECIOUS LITTLE.



YET THIS IS THE WAY, CAPTAIN. I CAN SENSE MY FELLOW ETERNALS AHEAD...

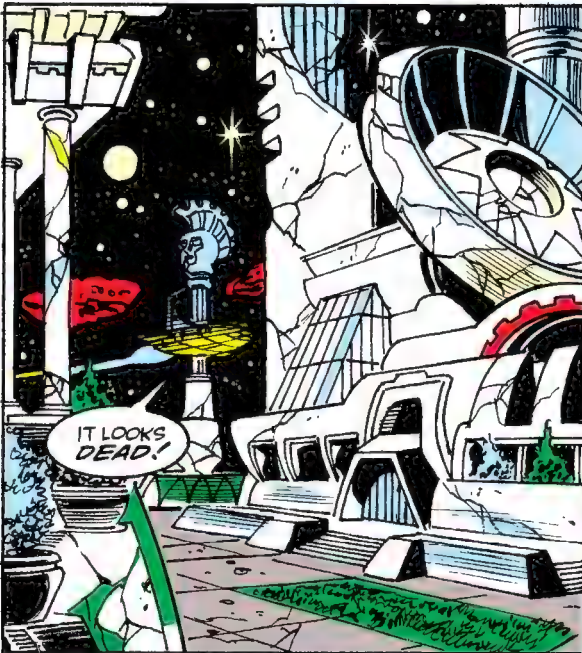
THERE'S ENOUGH HESITANCE IN YOUR VOICE TO TELL ME YOU'RE NOT AS SURE AS YOU'D LIKE TO BE, SERSI.

STILL... I'M WILLING TO PROCEED WITH THIS FOR ANOTHER HOUR OR SO...

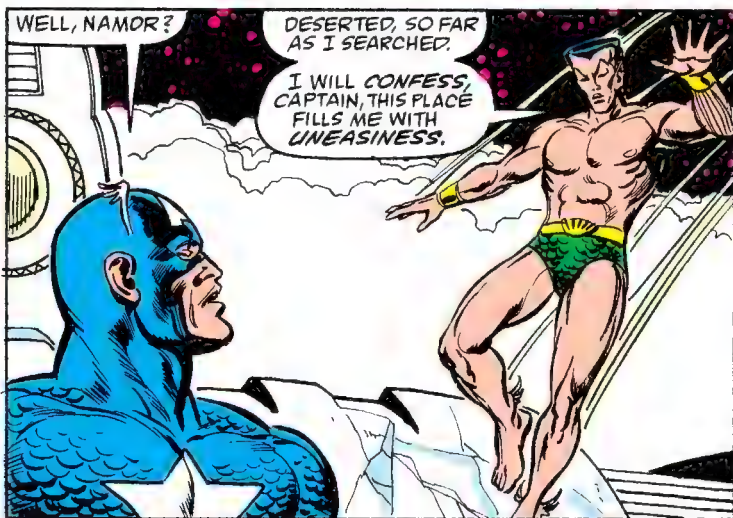
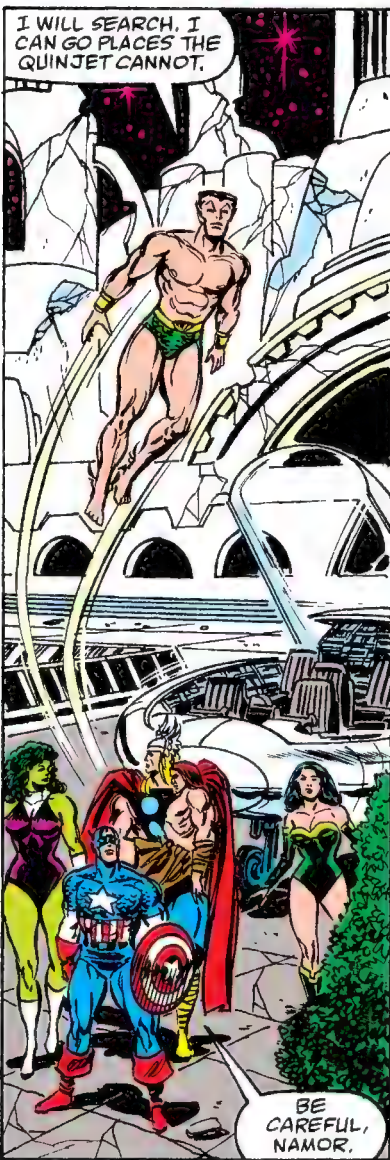


LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT THAT LONG, CAP!

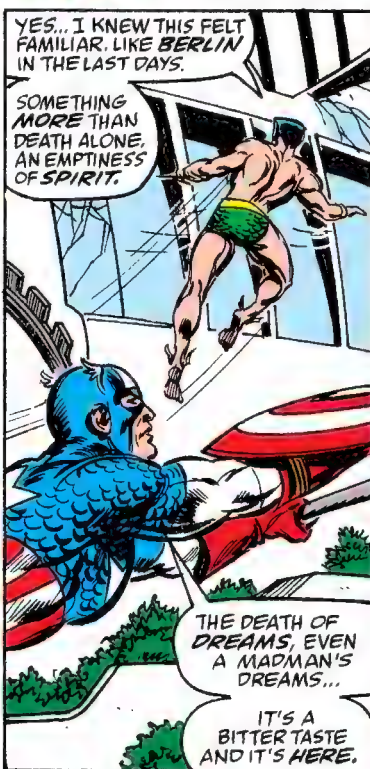
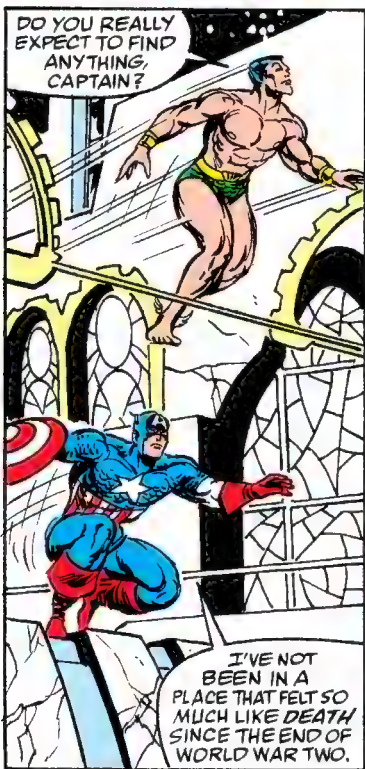




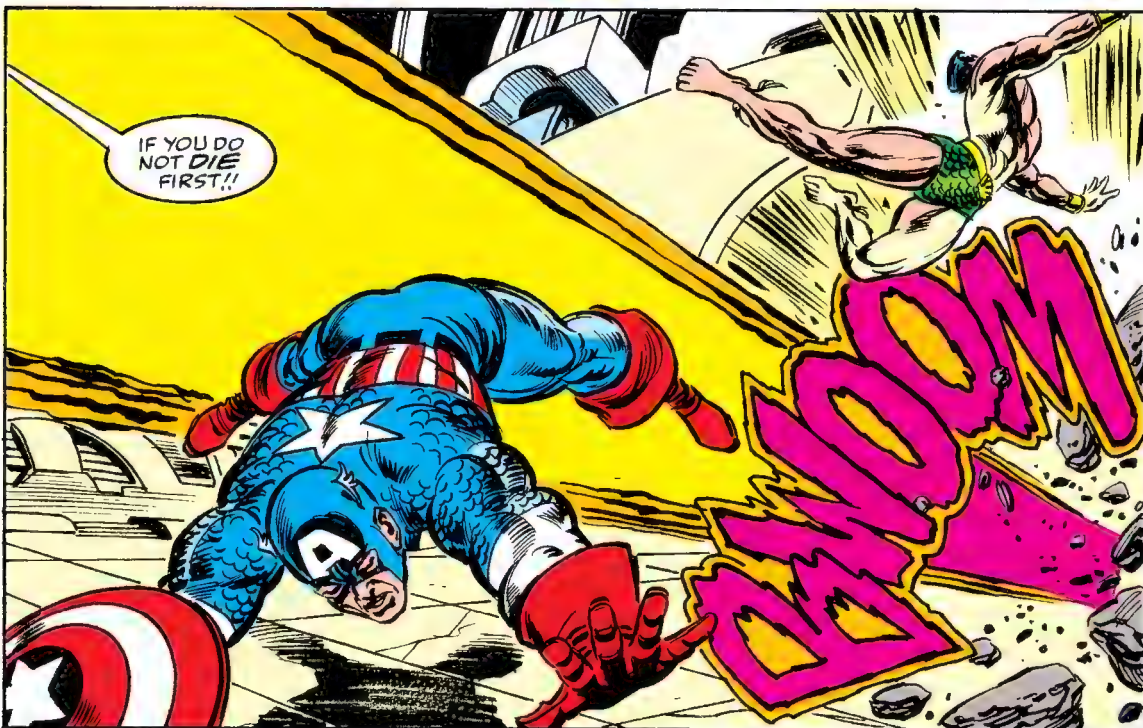
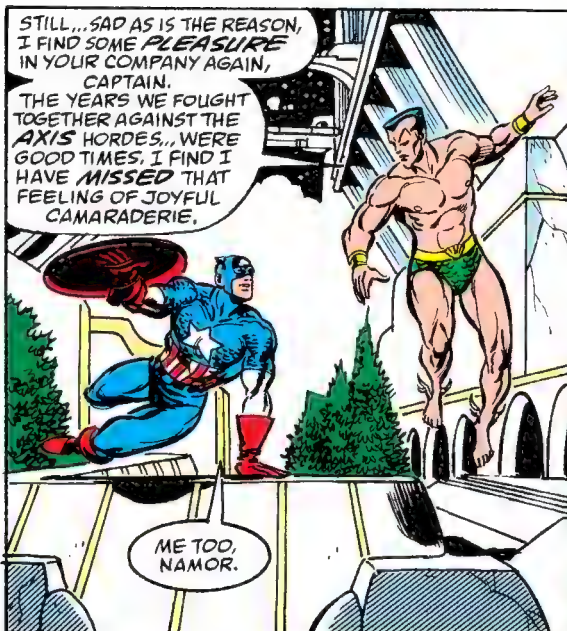
















DID YOU *HEAR* SOMETHING?

LIKE... *THUNDER*...?



NO... THAT COULDN'T BE, COULD IT?

NOT IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE. ALTHOUGH... WE CAN *BREATHE* HERE EASILY ENOUGH AND THAT'S NEVER MADE MUCH SENSE TO ME...



BE STILL NOW, SHE-HULK.



THIS IS THE *HIGH TOWER* OF OLYMPIA-- THE SEAT OF OUR GOVERNMENT, THE HOLY OF HOLIES.

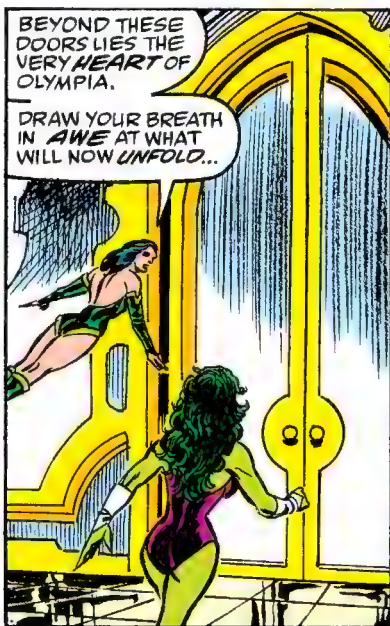
NO HUMAN HAS EVER WALKED THIS PASSAGEWAY...



AHEAD LIES THE GREAT HALL, THE CENTRAL MEETING PLACE OF ALL ETERNALS.

TREAD SOFTLY NOW IN THIS HALLOWED PLACE.

CHOOSE EVERY WORD WITH CARE.

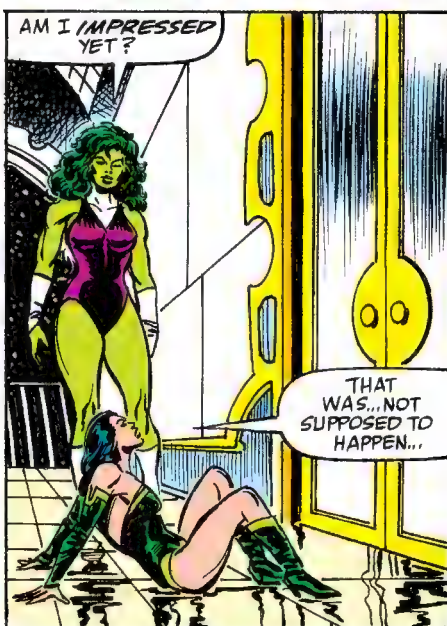


BEYOND THESE DOORS LIES THE VERY *HEART* OF OLYMPIA.

DRAW YOUR BREATH IN *AWESOME* AT WHAT WILL NOW *UNFOLD*...



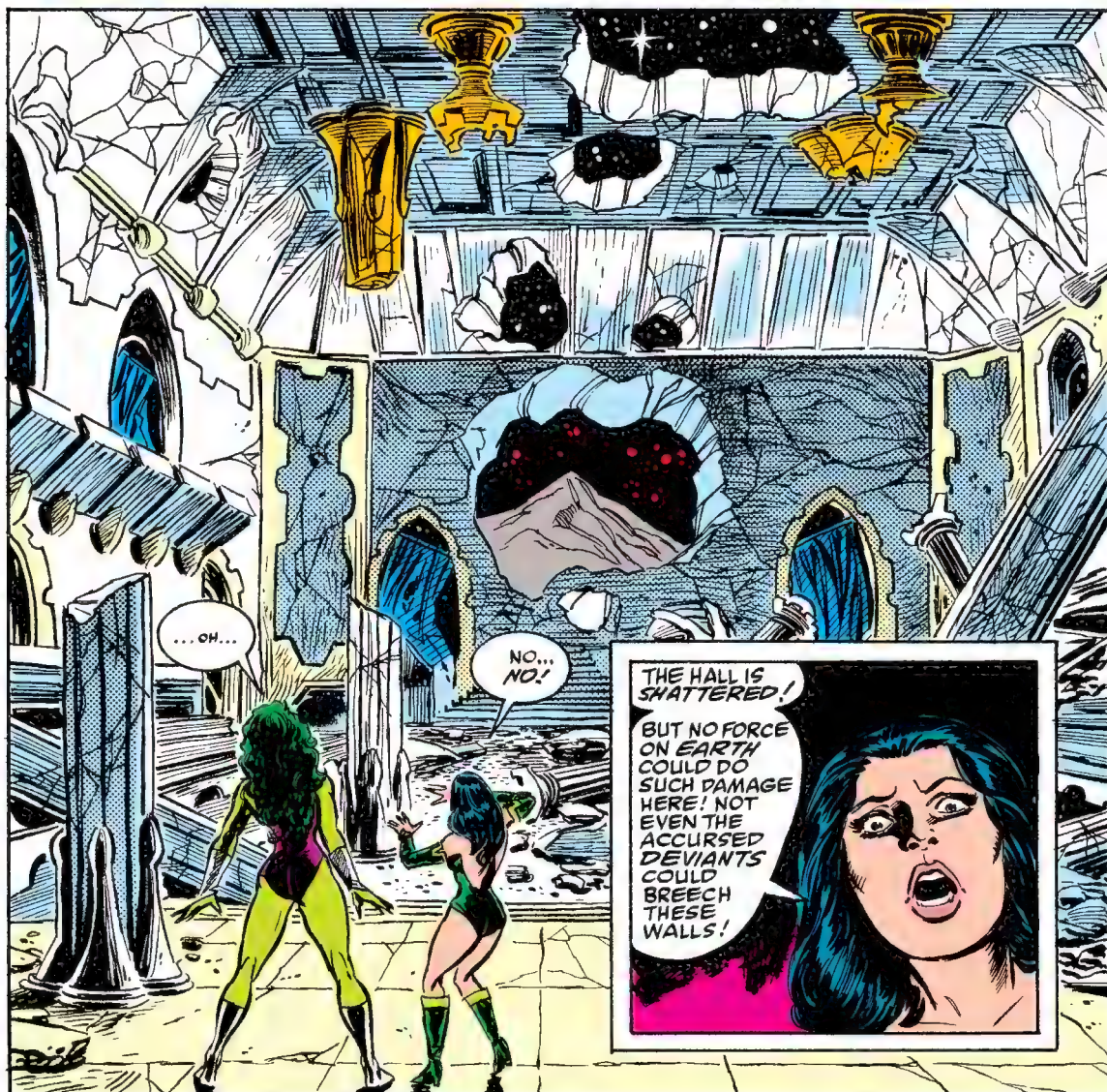
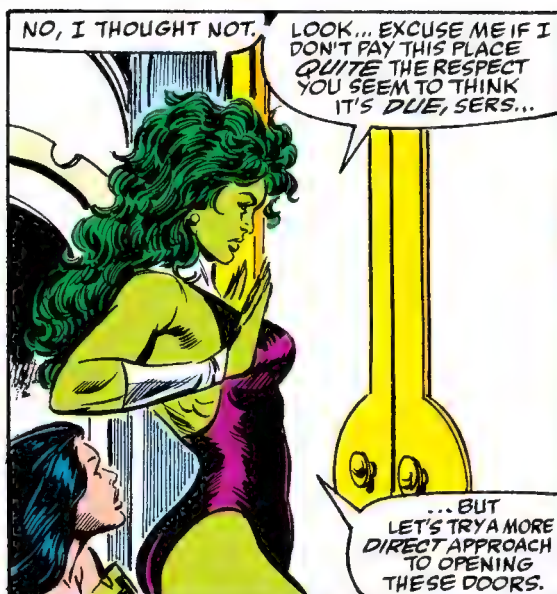
UMP!



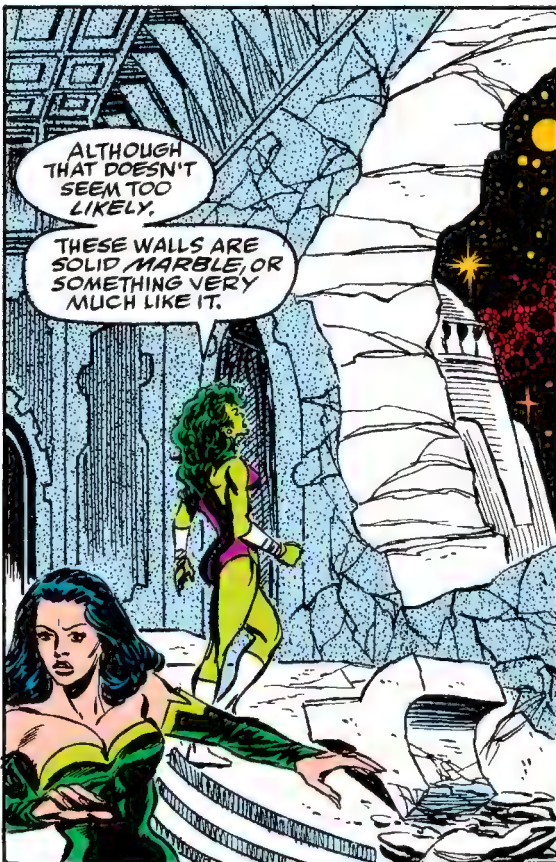
AM I *IMPRESSED* YET?

THAT WAS... NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN...

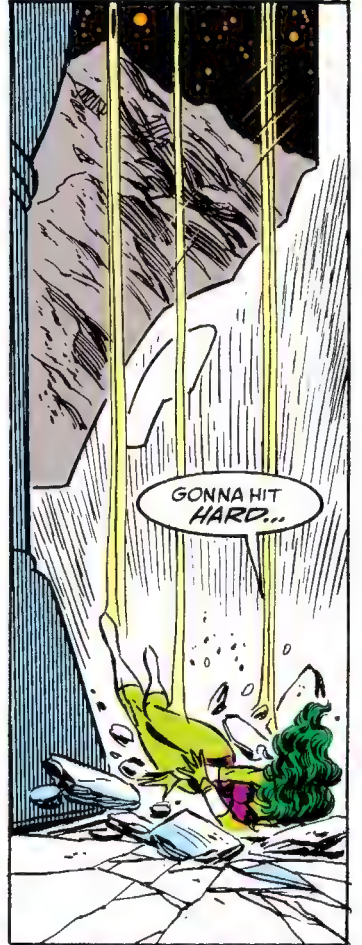




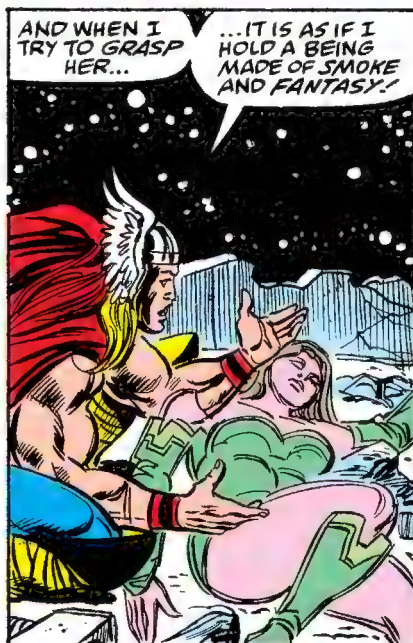
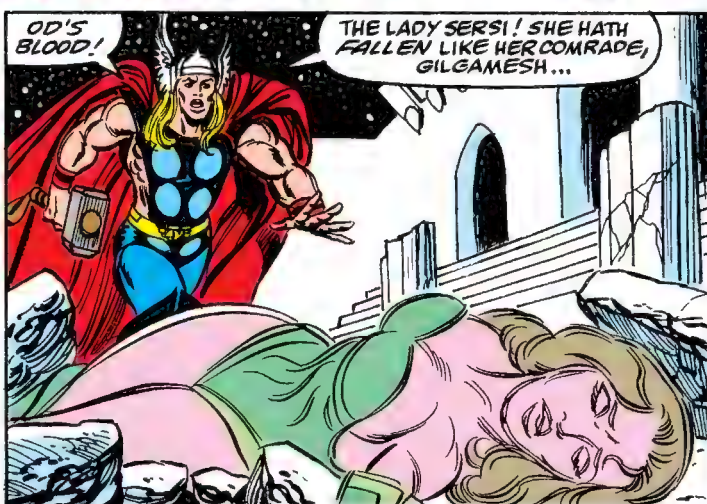
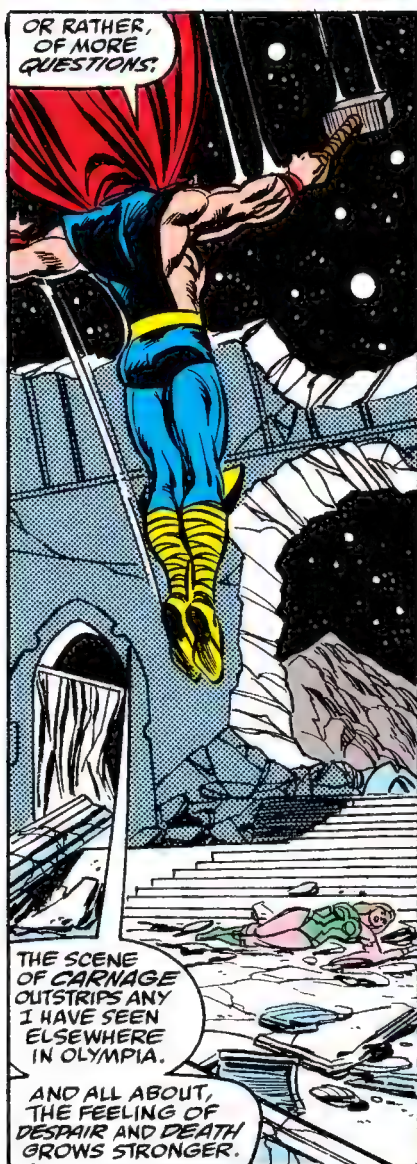
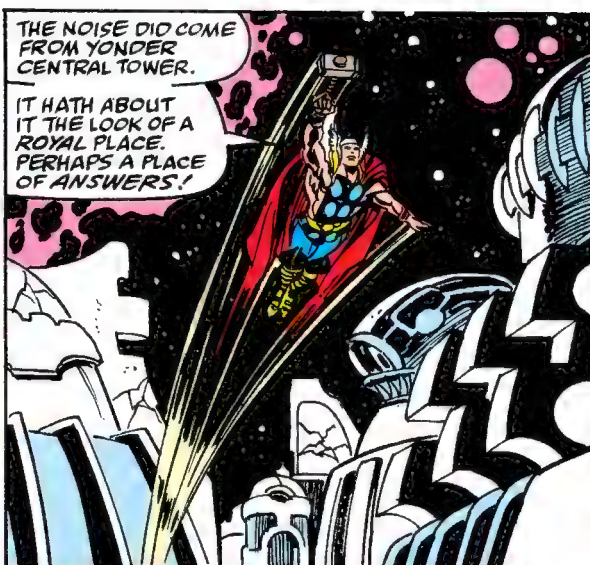




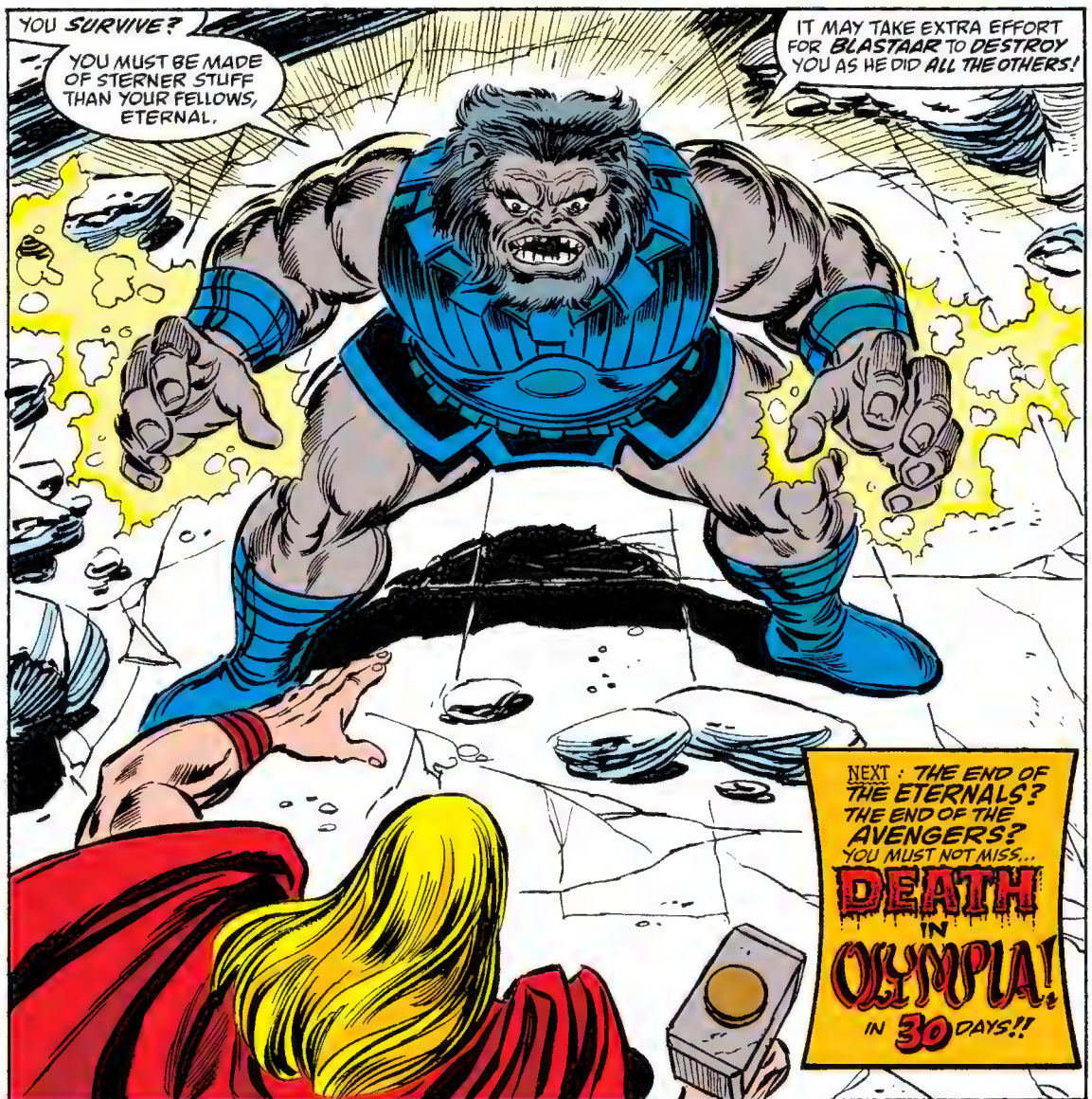
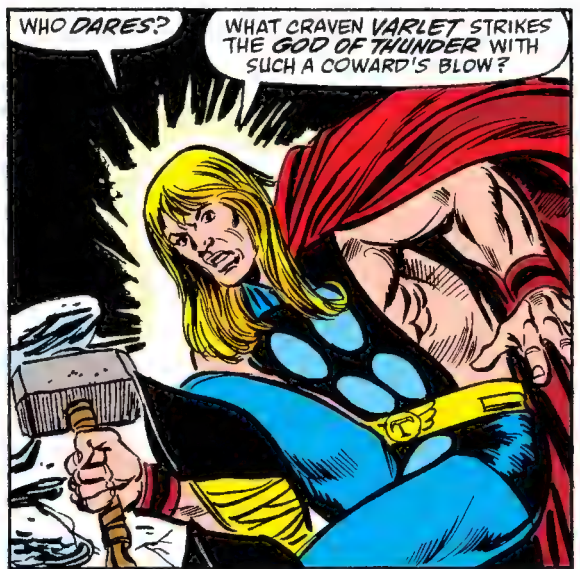














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# AVENGERS®

THE TRIUMPH  
OF  
BLASTAAR!





# DEATH IN OLYMPIA!

AROUND THE EBON THRONE THERE IS A SILENCE, DARK AND DREAD.

FAR AWAY THE SOUND OF DISTANT THUNDER ROLLS ACROSS SKIES NIGHT DARK AND OMINOUS.

MORTALS ATTEND! ODIN IS ABOUT TO SPEAK...!!

COME FORTH!

COME FORTH, YE WARRIORS THREE!

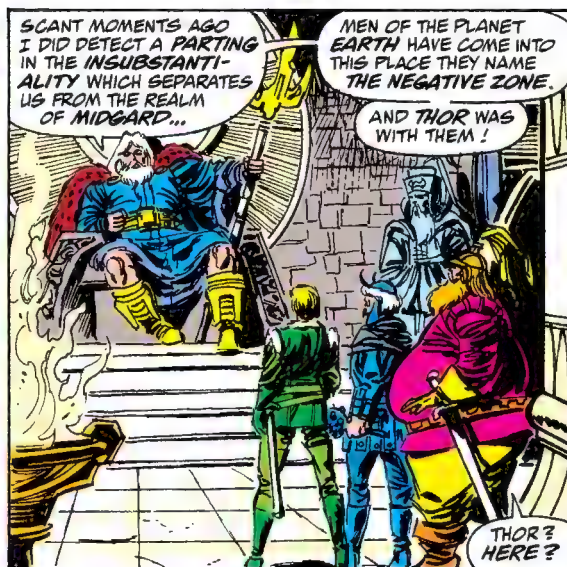
**Stan Lee**  
PRESENTS:

JOHN BYRNE • PAUL RYAN • TOM PALMER • BILL OAKLEY ~ letterer • HOWARD MACKIE • TOM DEFALCO  
WRITER BREAKDOWNS FINISHES CHRISTIE SCHEELE ~ colorist EDITOR CONCERNED ONLOOKER





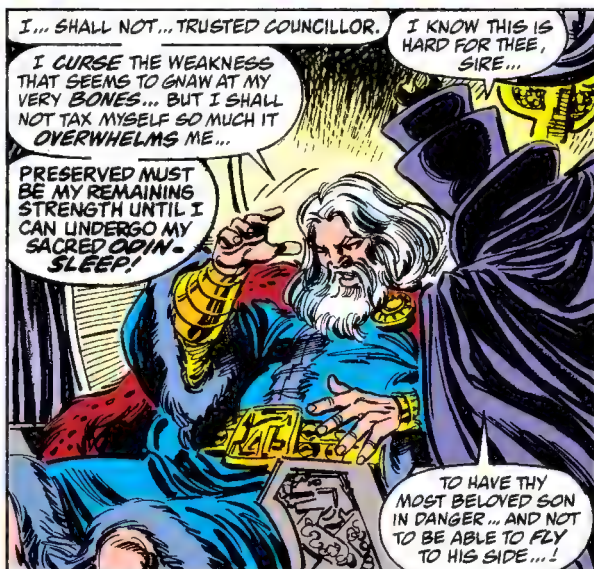
HOGUN...  
FANDRAL...  
VOLSTAAG...!  
THOU WHO ART AMONG  
THOSE PRECIOUS FEW MY  
NOBLE SON DOTH CALL  
FRIENDS...  
WE HEAR  
AND OBEY, GREAT  
ODIN...  
WHAT IS THY  
COMMAND?



SCANT MOMENTS AGO  
I DID DETECT A PARTING  
IN THE INSUBSTANTI-  
ALITY WHICH SEPARATES  
US FROM THE REALM  
OF MIDGARD...  
MEN OF THE PLANET  
EARTH HAVE COME INTO  
THIS PLACE THEY NAME  
THE NEGATIVE ZONE.  
AND THOR WAS  
WITH THEM!  
THOR?  
HERE?



AYE! HE CHOSE TO REMAIN  
WITH HIS MORTAL COLLEAGUES  
WHEN ASGARD WAS TRANS-  
PORTED HERE, NOW IT SEEMS  
SOME BUSINESS HATH  
BROUGHT HIM NIGH...  
AND WITH HIS COMING,  
HE HATH THRUST HIM-  
SELF INTO THE MAW OF  
DANGER MOST FOUL.  
I CANNOT... QUITE...  
MAKE OUT THE FORM...  
OF THIS DANGER...  
BUT I KNOW  
THIS TO BE SO!  
CAUTION,  
SIRE!  
CAUTION!  
DO NOT  
OVERTAX  
THYSELF!



I... SHALL NOT... TRUSTED COUNCILLOR.  
I KNOW THIS IS  
HARD FOR THEE,  
SIRE...  
I CURSE THE WEAKNESS  
THAT SEEMS TO GNAW AT MY  
VERY BONES... BUT I SHALL  
NOT TAX MYSELF SO MUCH IT  
OVERWHELMS ME...  
PRESERVED MUST  
BE MY REMAINING  
STRENGTH UNTIL I  
CAN UNDERGO MY  
SACRED ODIN-  
SLEEP!  
TO HAVE THY  
MOST BELOVED SON  
IN DANGER... AND NOT  
TO BE ABLE TO FLY  
TO HIS SIDE...!

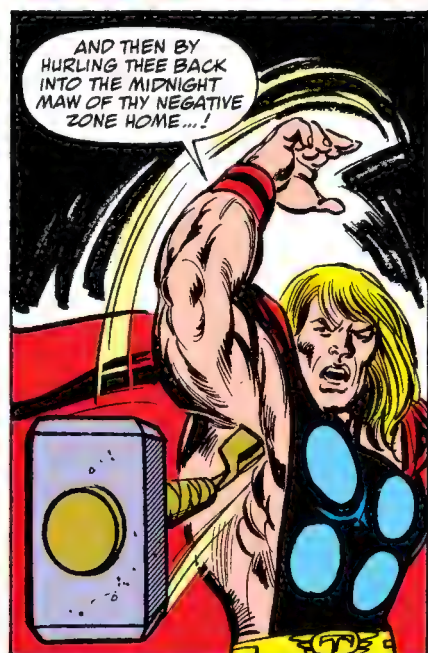
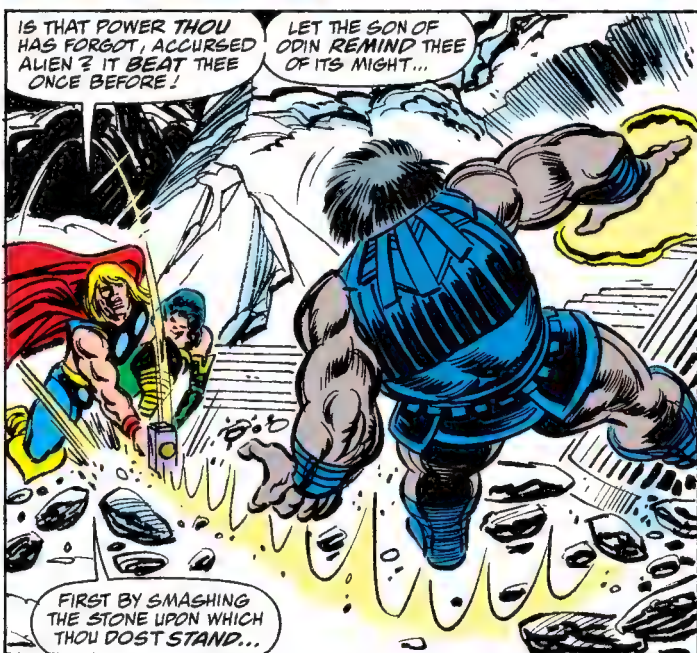
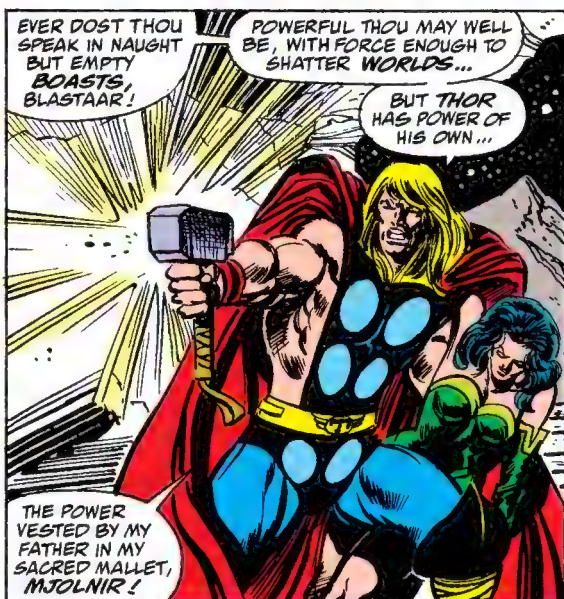
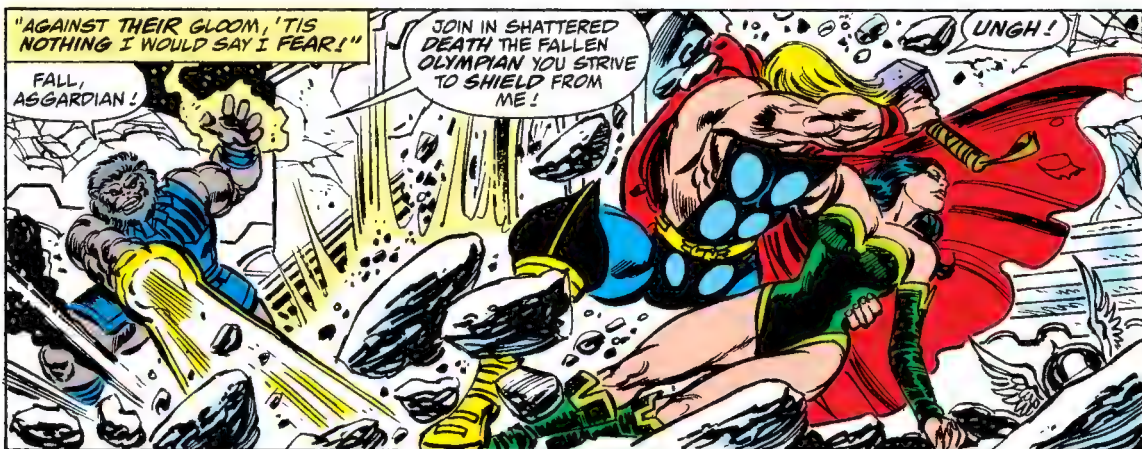


AYE, AND  
AYE AGAIN,  
VIZIER!  
AND FOR THIS VERY REASON  
DID I SUMMON THEE, WARRIORS  
OF ASGARD. GO YE NOW AND  
LEARN WHAT TROUBLE DOTH  
VEX MY FIRSTBORN SON.  
RENDER HIM  
SUCH AID AS  
YOUR DIVERSE  
SKILLS CAN  
PROVIDE.  
WE FLY ON WINGS  
AS FLEET AS THOUGHT  
ITSELF, MY LORD...



PRETTY WORDS,  
SWORDSMAN...  
BUT PRETTY WORDS  
MAY WELL AVAIL US  
NAUGHT AGAINST  
SUCH PERILS AS  
STALK THIS MAD  
REALM!  
SIGH!  
FRIEND HOGUN, IN ALL  
THE NEGATIVE ZONE, 'TIS  
NOTHING GRIMMER  
THAN THINE OWN BLACK  
MOODS!



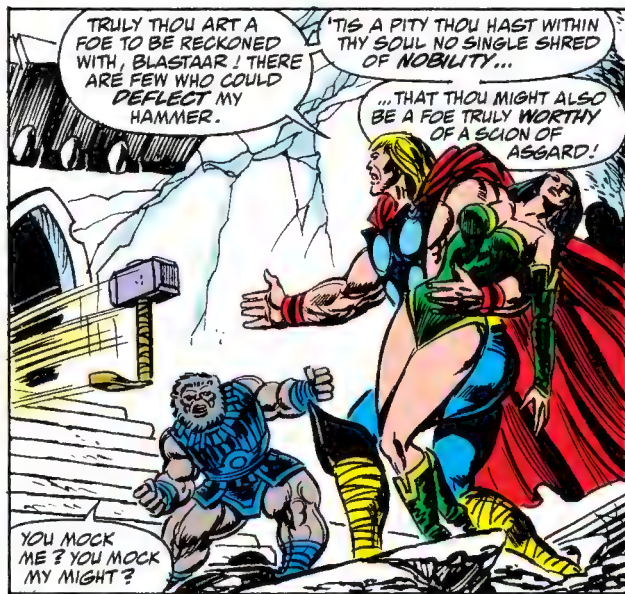






A CUNNING MOVE, ASSGARDIAN... BUT NOT ENOUGH!

WE ARE WITHIN THE NEGATIVE ZONE... AND HERE BLASTAAR IS OF POWER UNEQUALLED!

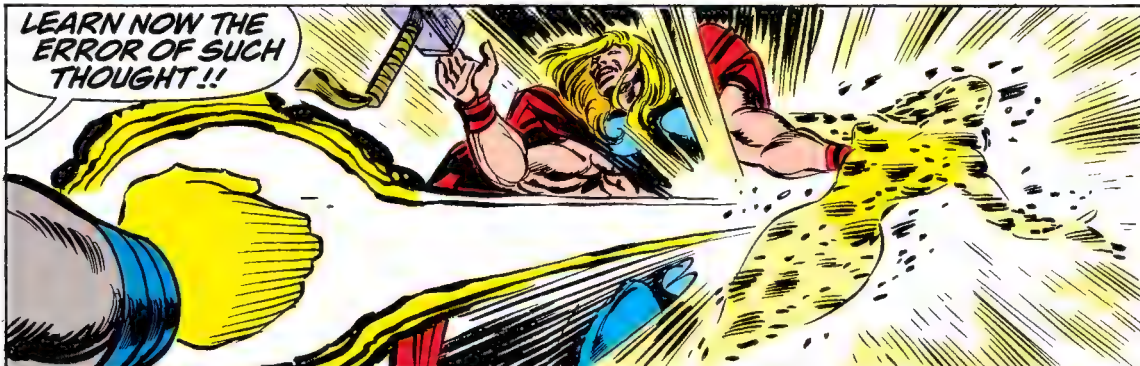


TRULY THOU ART A FOE TO BE RECKONED WITH, BLASTAAR! THERE ARE FEW WHO COULD DEFLECT MY HAMMER.

'TIS A PITY THOU HAST WITHIN THY SOUL NO SINGLE SHRED OF NOBILITY...

...THAT THOU MIGHT ALSO BE A FOE TRULY WORTHY OF A SCION OF ASSGARD!

YOU MOCK ME? YOU MOCK MY MIGHT?



LEARN NOW THE ERROR OF SUCH THOUGHT!!



SERSI...!!



GRAVEN MISCREANT!!

FOUL MURDERER!!

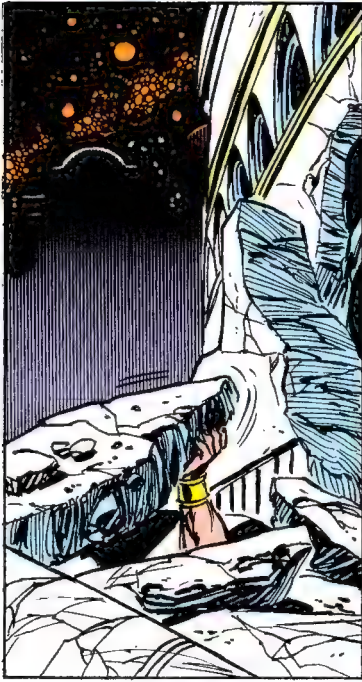
THOU HAST BLASTED HER TO LESS THAN DUST!



TERRIBLE SHALL BE MY RETRIBUTION!!

WHOUFF!!

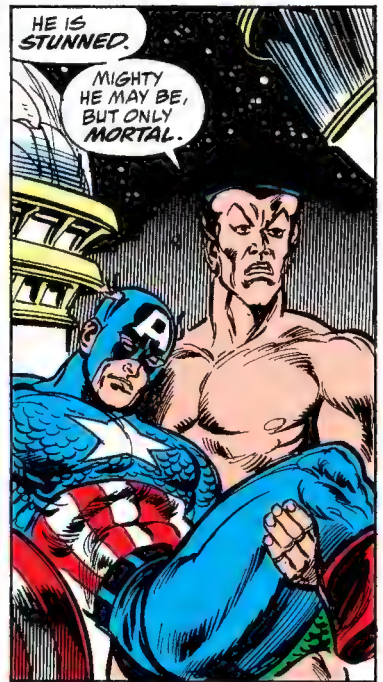




ENOUGH !!

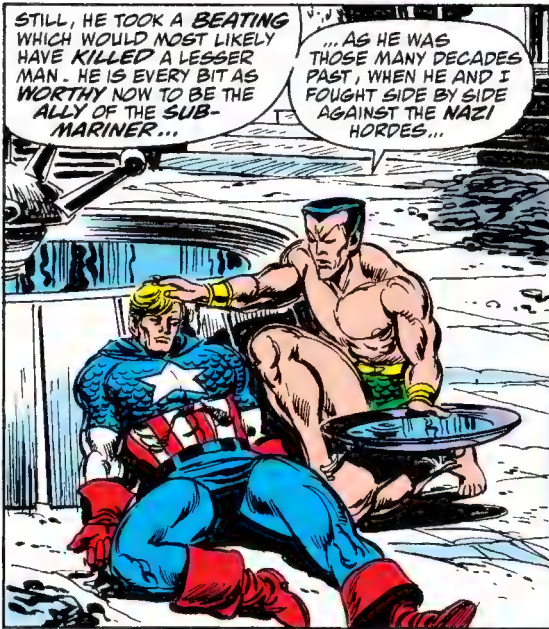
NAMOR  
SHALL BE  
FREE !!

CAPTAIN  
AMERICA...  
ARE YOU... ?



HE IS  
STUNNED.

MIGHTY  
HE MAY BE,  
BUT ONLY  
MORTAL.



STILL, HE TOOK A BEATING  
WHICH WOULD MOST LIKELY  
HAVE KILLED A LESSER  
MAN. HE IS EVERY BIT AS  
WORTHY NOW TO BE THE  
ALLY OF THE SUB-  
MARINER...

... AS HE WAS  
THOSE MANY DECADES  
PAST, WHEN HE AND I  
FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE  
AGAINST THE NAZI  
HORDES...

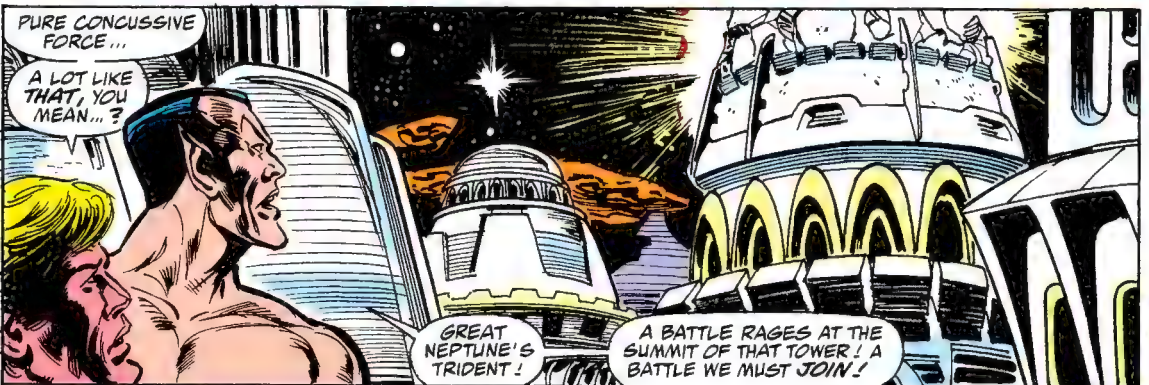


COMING FROM YOU I'LL  
TAKE THAT AS THE  
ULTIMATE COMPLIMENT,  
NAMOR.

DID YOU SEE WHO--  
OR WHAT IT WAS THAT  
HIT US ?

NO, OLD  
FRIEND.

IT WAS A BOLT OF  
PURE, CONCUSSIVE  
FORCE, BUT IT HIT US  
BEFORE I HAD THE SLIGH-  
TEST CHANCE TO TELL ITS  
POINT OF ORIGIN.



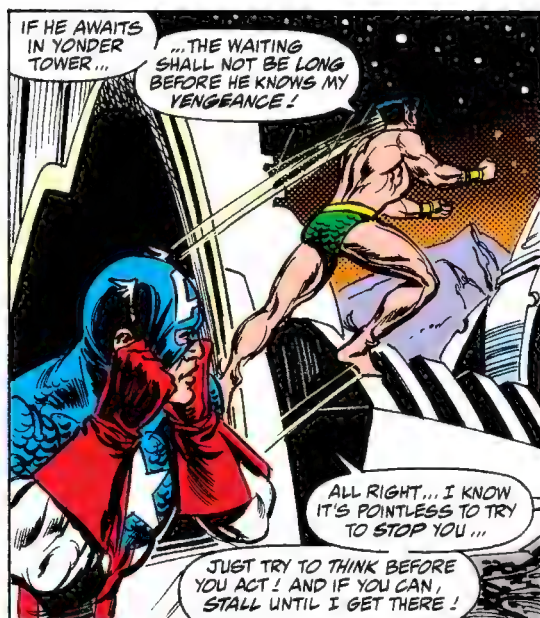
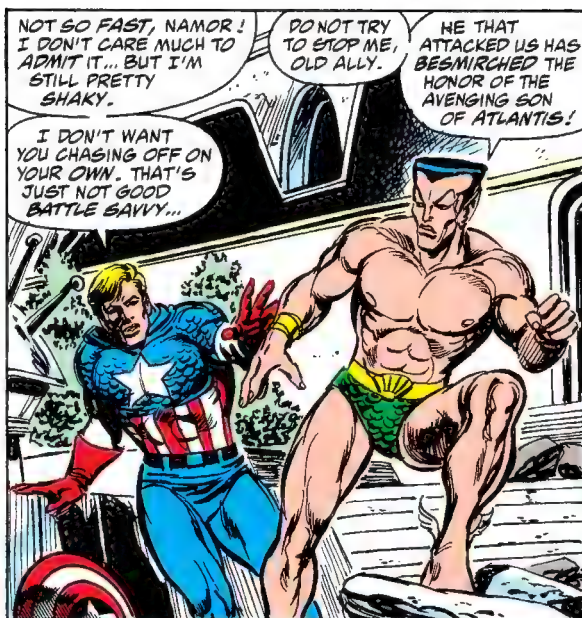
PURE CONCUSSIVE  
FORCE...

A LOT LIKE  
THAT, YOU  
MEAN... ?

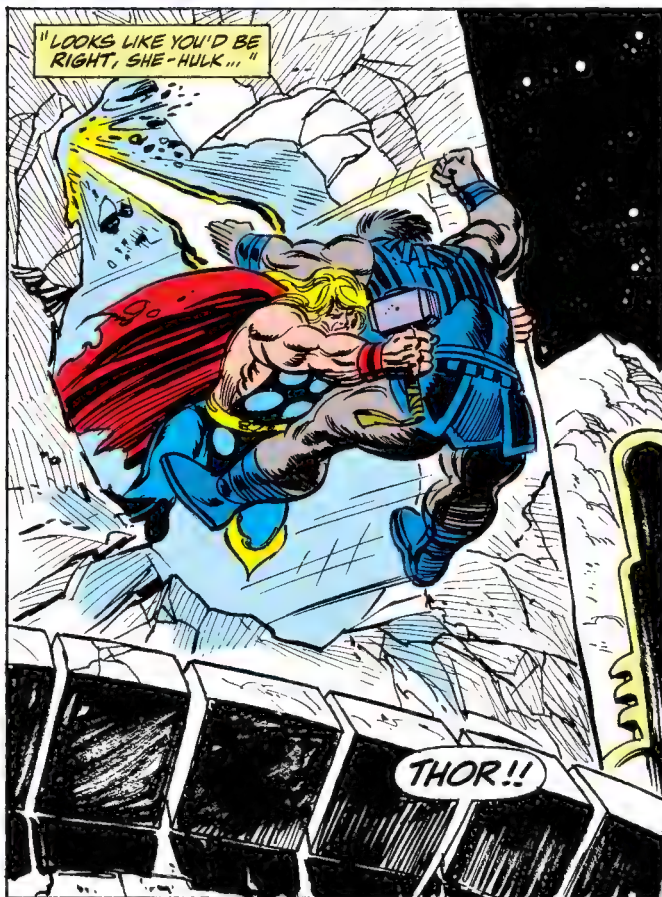
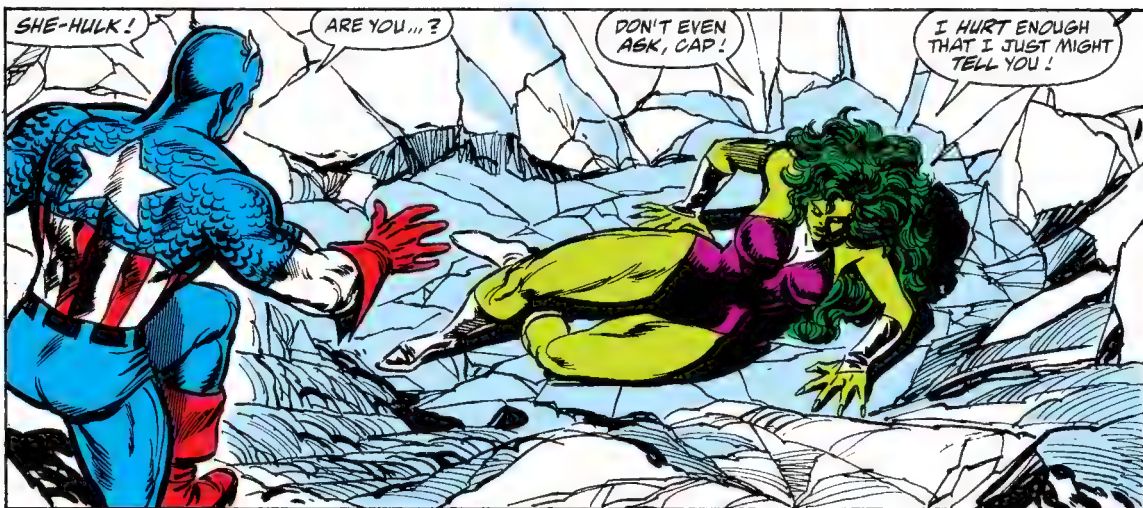
GREAT  
NEPTUNE'S  
TRIDENT !

A BATTLE RAGES AT THE  
SUMMIT OF THAT TOWER ! A  
BATTLE WE MUST JOIN !

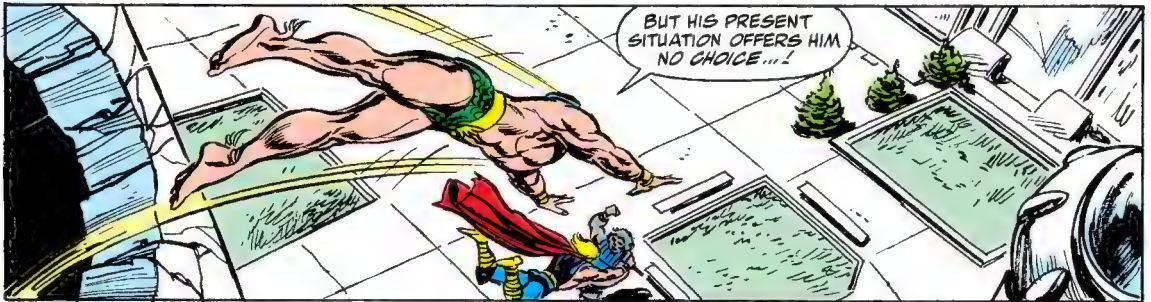




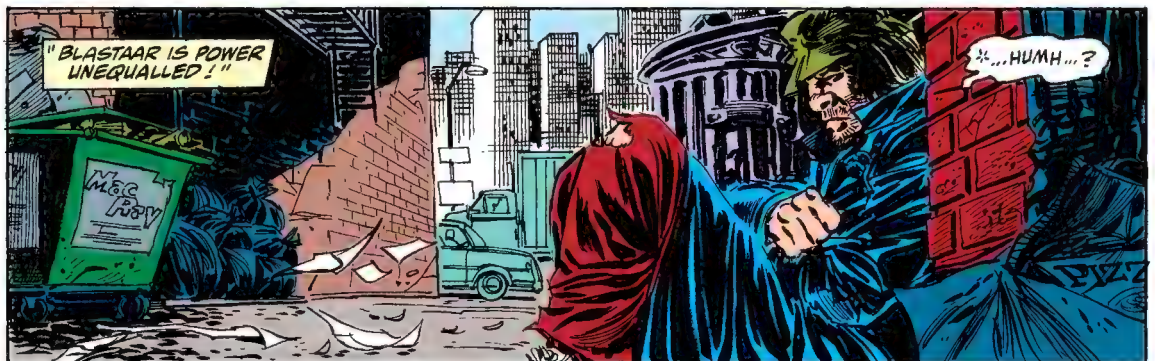
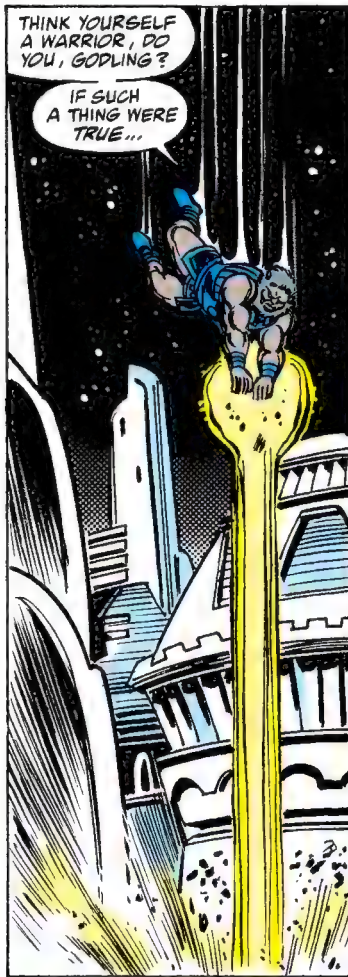
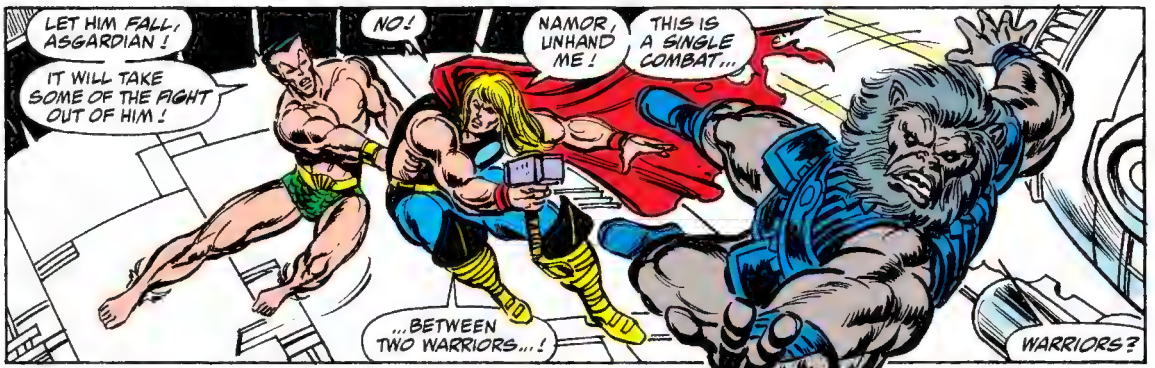




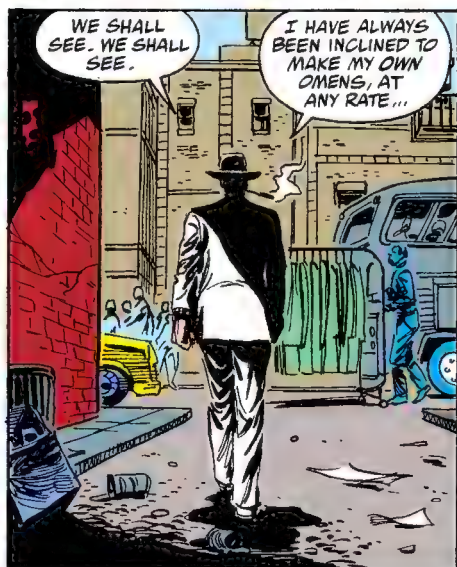
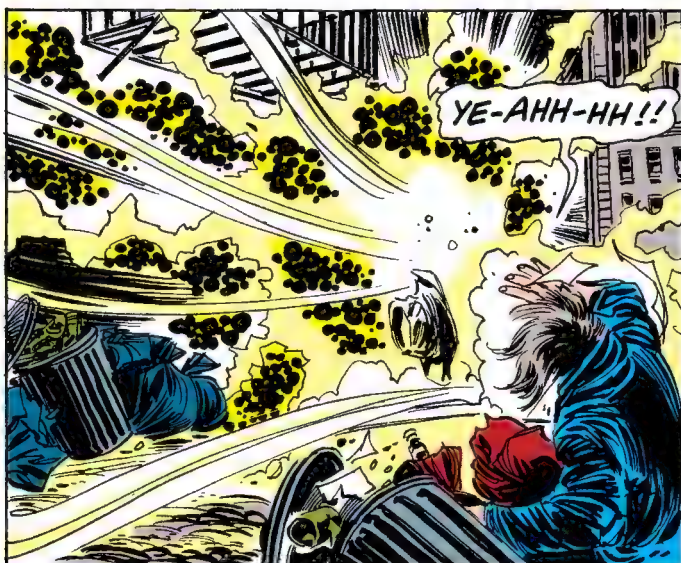




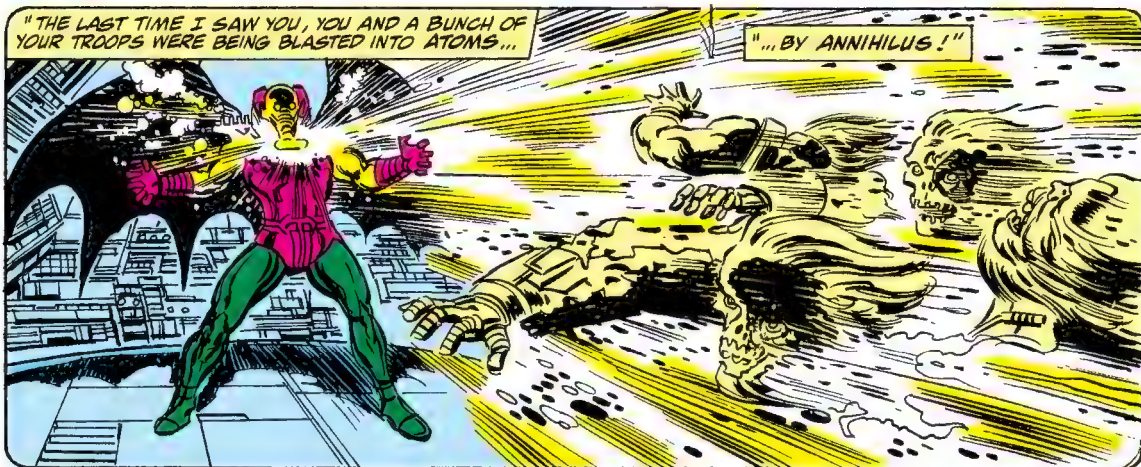




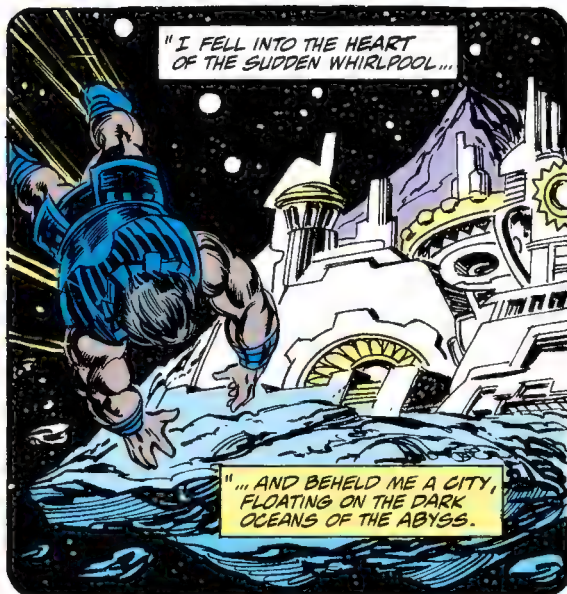
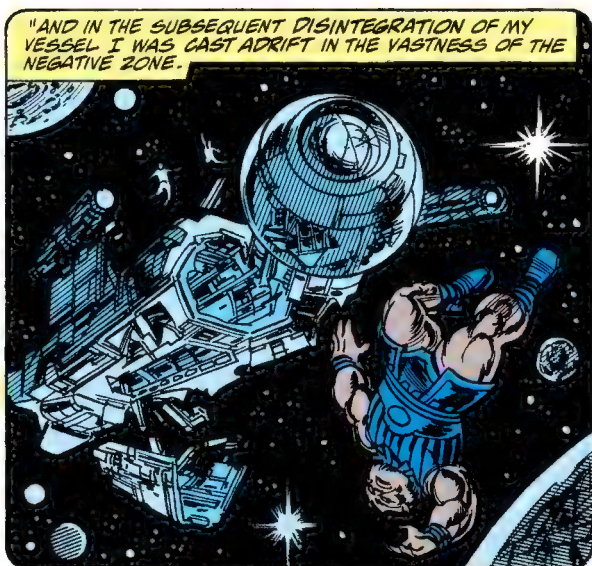
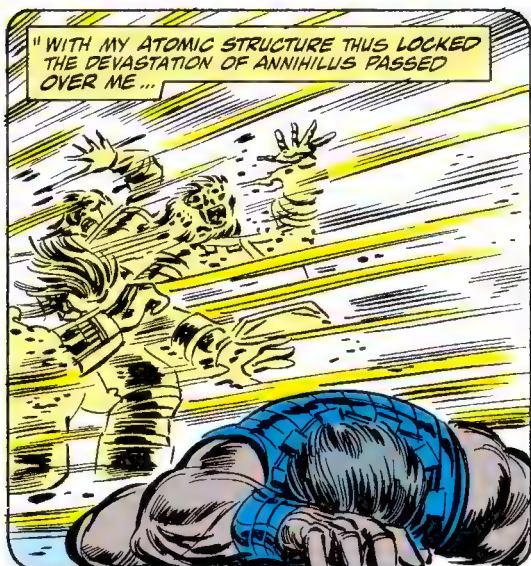
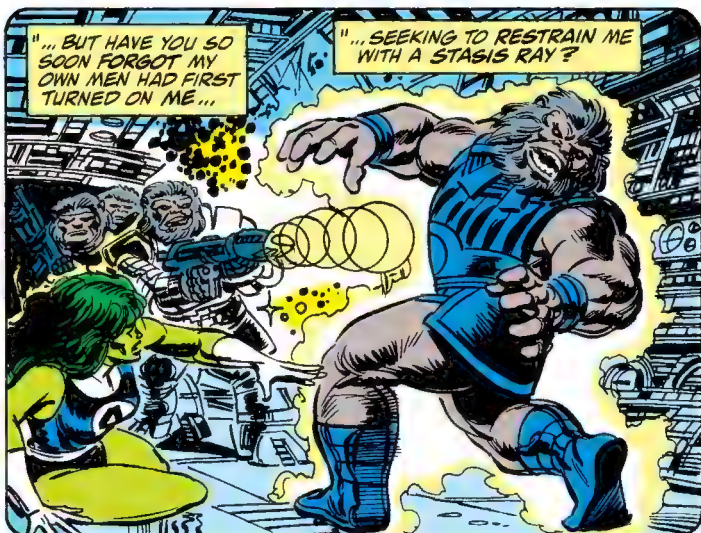




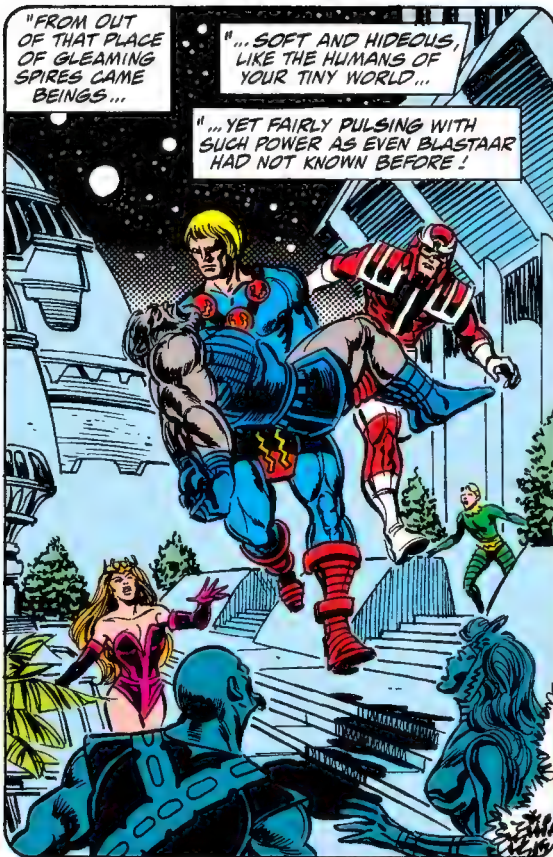












"FROM OUT OF THAT PLACE OF GLEAMING SPIRES CAME BEINGS..."

"...SOFT AND HIDEOUS, LIKE THE HUMANS OF YOUR TINY WORLD..."

"...YET FAIRLY PULSING WITH SUCH POWER AS EVEN BLASTAAR HAD NOT KNOWN BEFORE!"



"I WAS NEAR DEATH WHEN FOUND..."

"THEY BROUGHT ME TO THEIR LEADER -- A FEMALE, IF SUCH A THING CAN BE BELIEVED!"

"AND IT WAS SHE WHO SUMMONED FORTH THE ENERGIES THAT FANNED TO FULL VIGOR THE DWINDLING EMBERS OF MY LIFE."



"I WAS GRATEFUL..."

"TO SHOW MY THANKS, I TRIED TO SLAY THEM ALL AS QUICKLY AND PAINLESSLY AS I COULD."

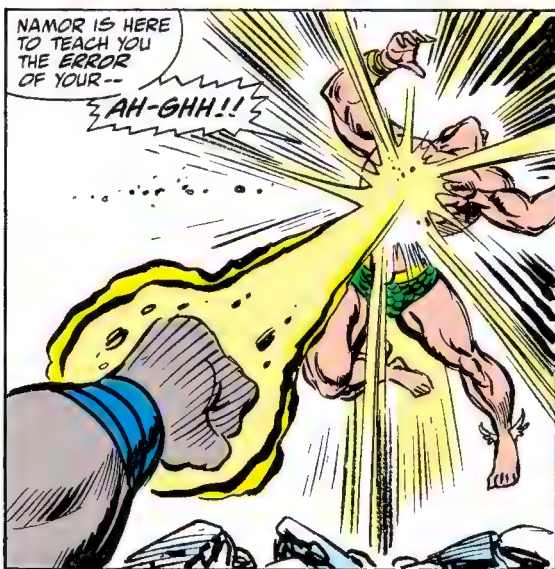
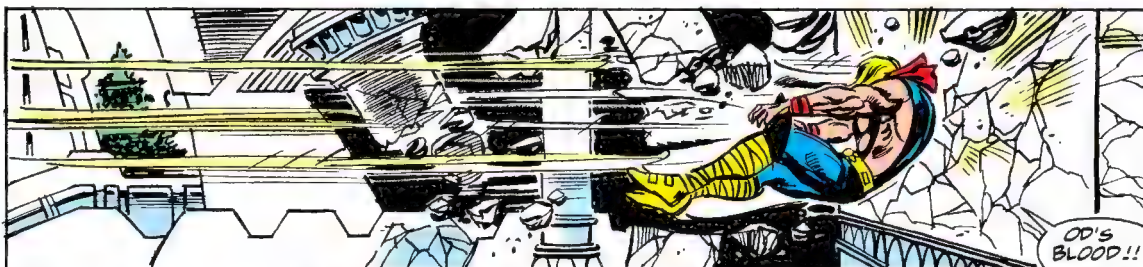
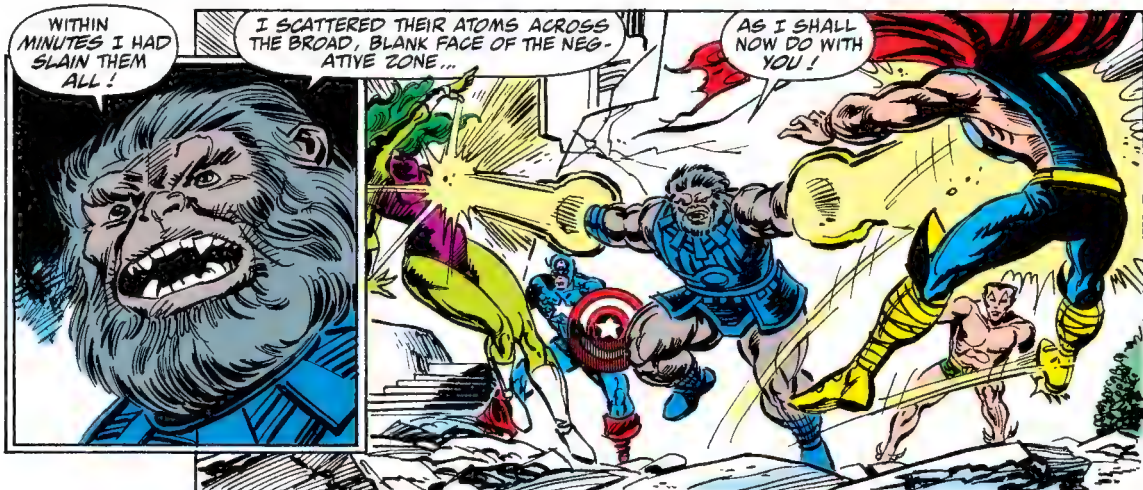
"FOOLISHLY, THEY RESISTED."



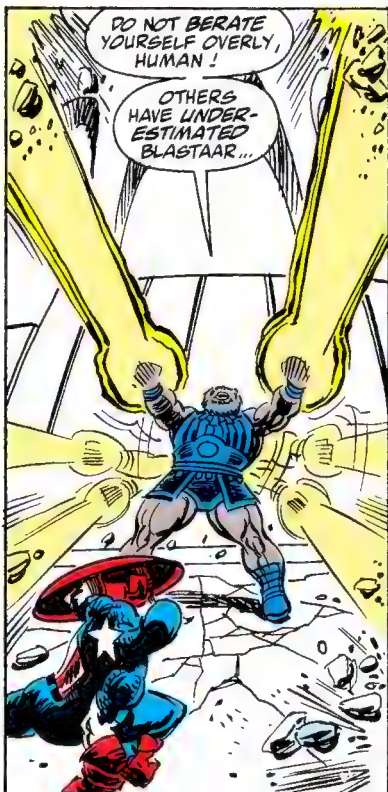
"...AND THE PRICE OF THAT RESISTANCE WAS UTTER DESTRUCTION!"

"I ONLY HOPE IT PAINED THE STUPID BRUTES AS MUCH AS THEIR STUPIDITY PAINED BLASTAAR!"





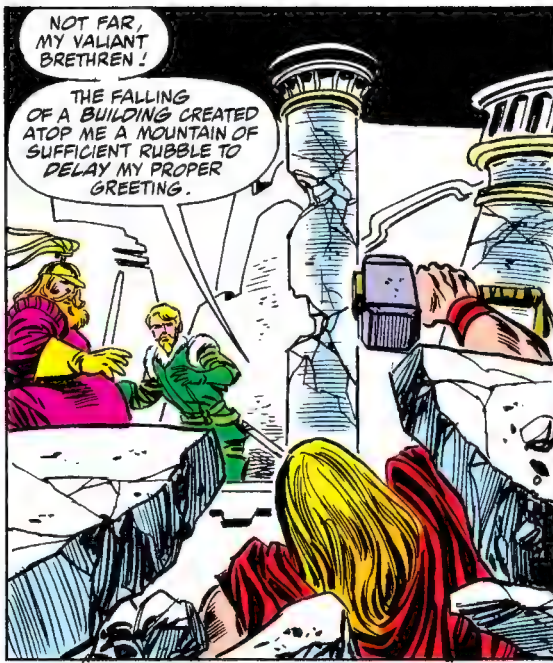




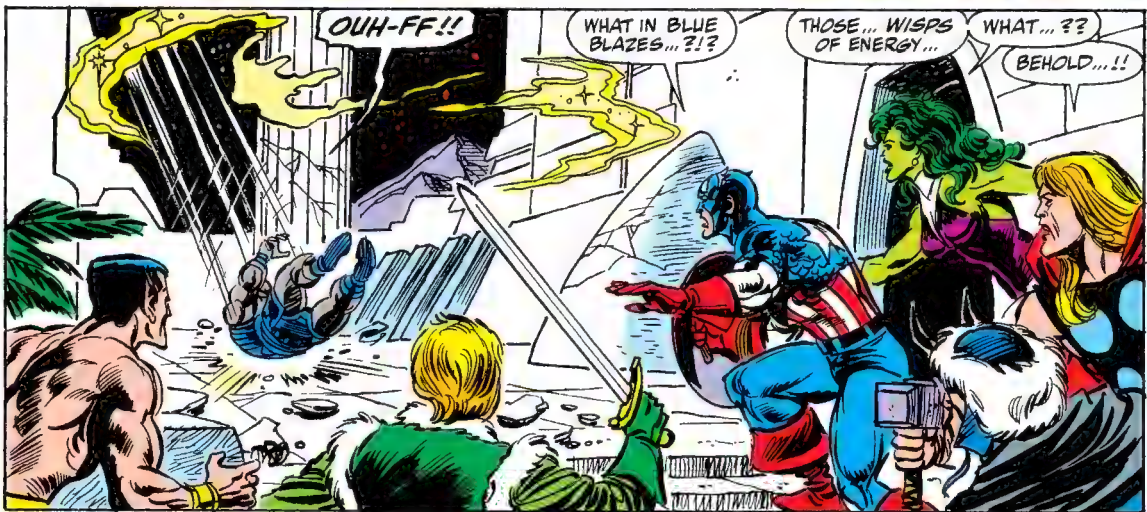
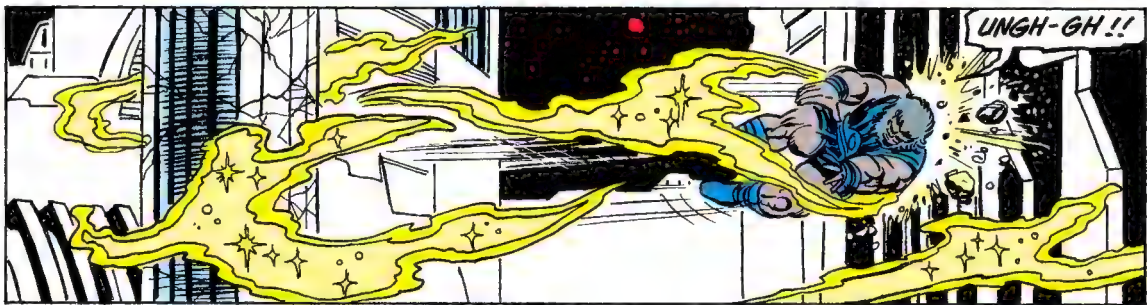
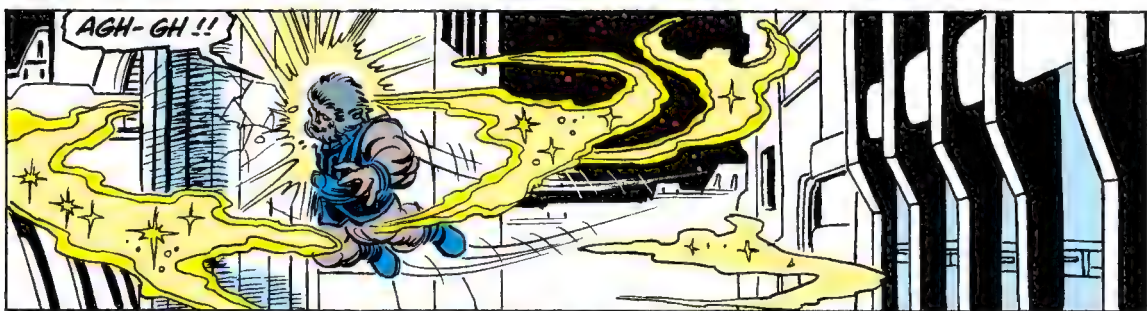
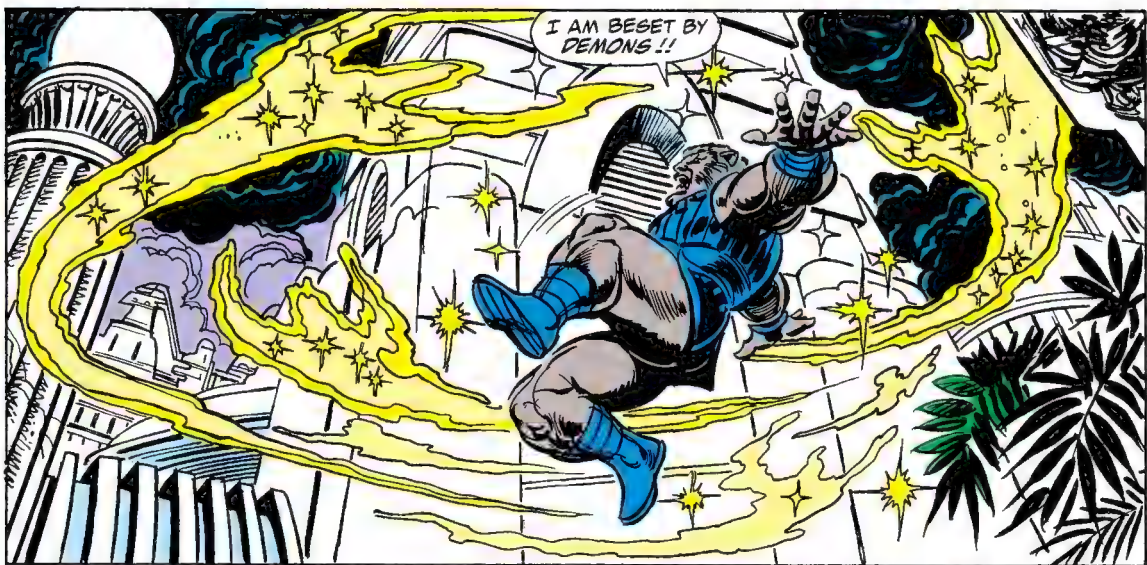




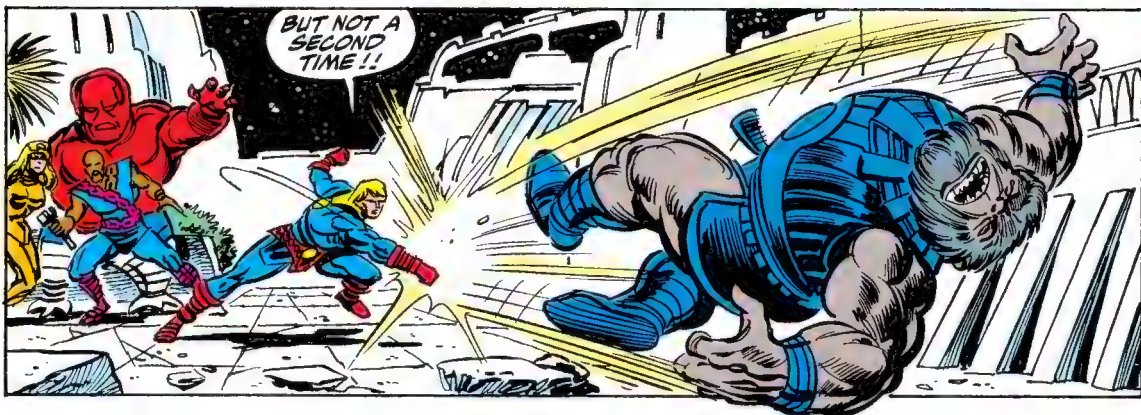
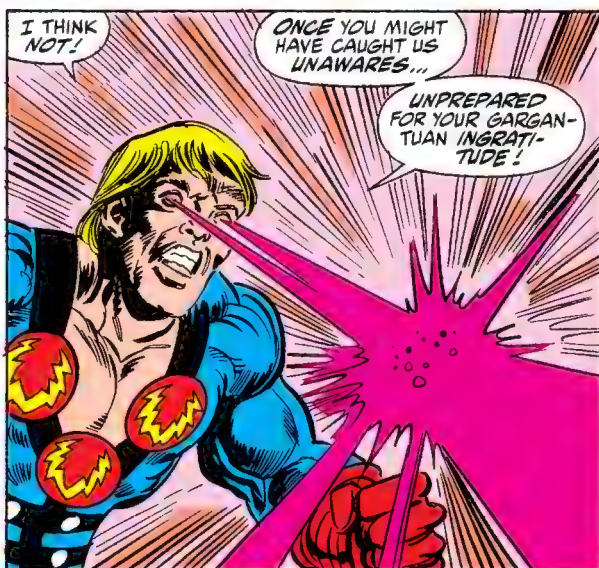
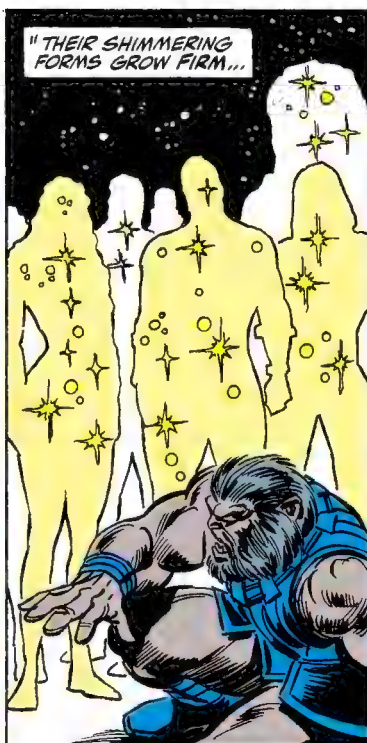
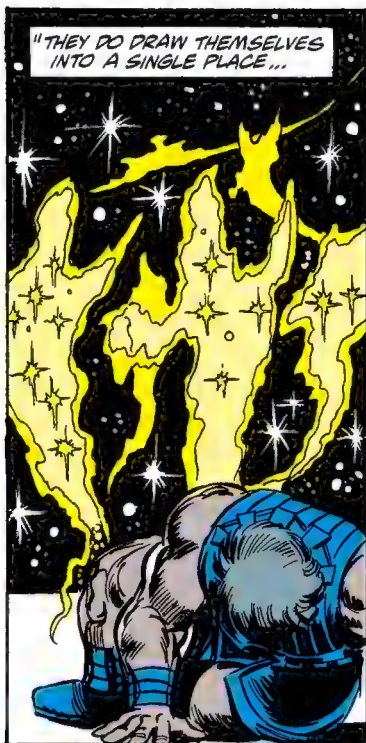




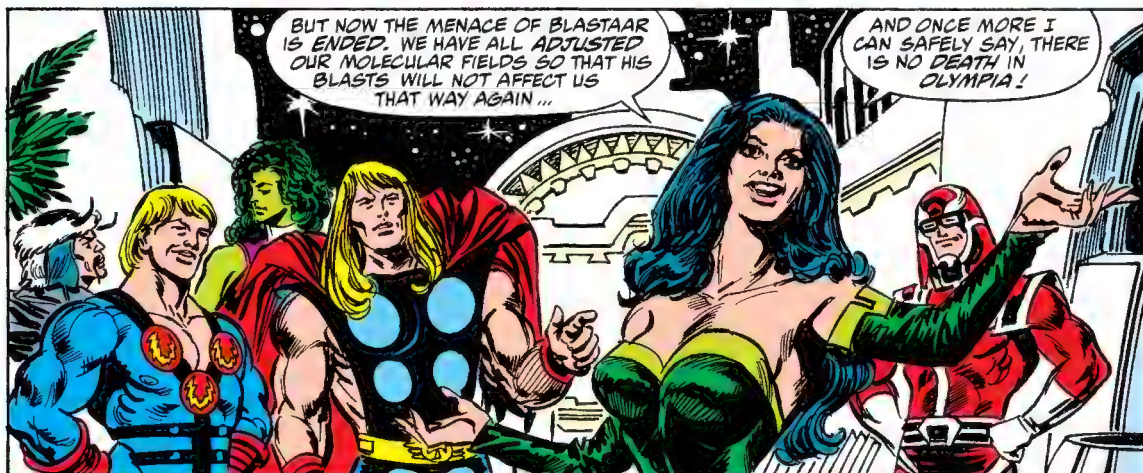
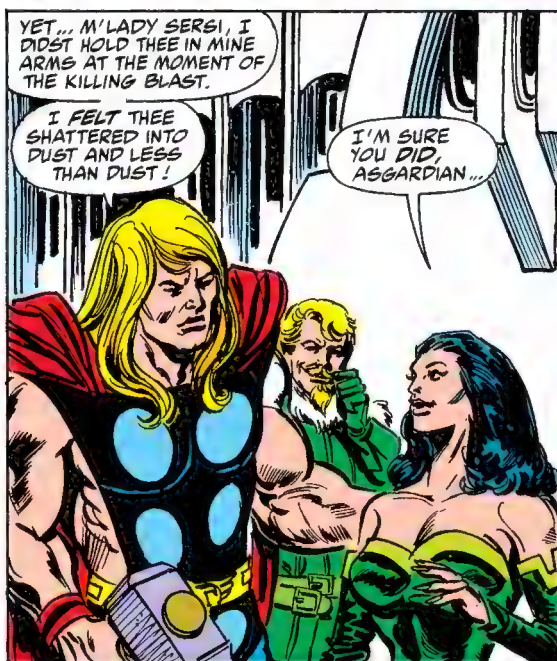
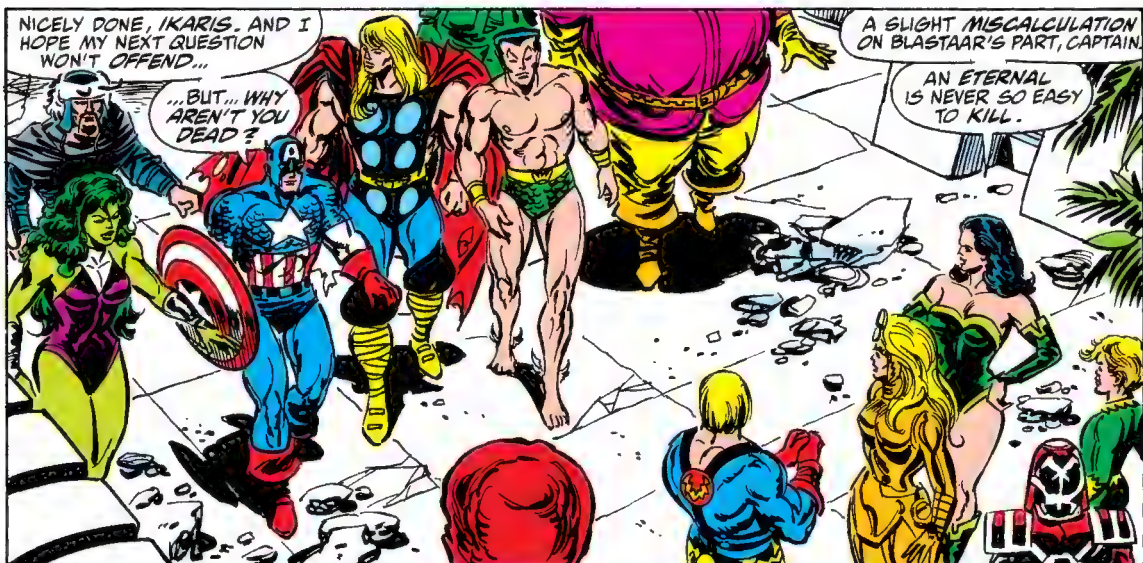




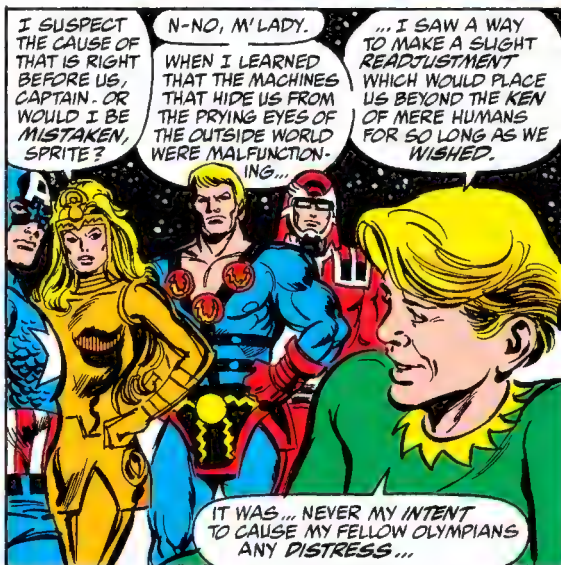
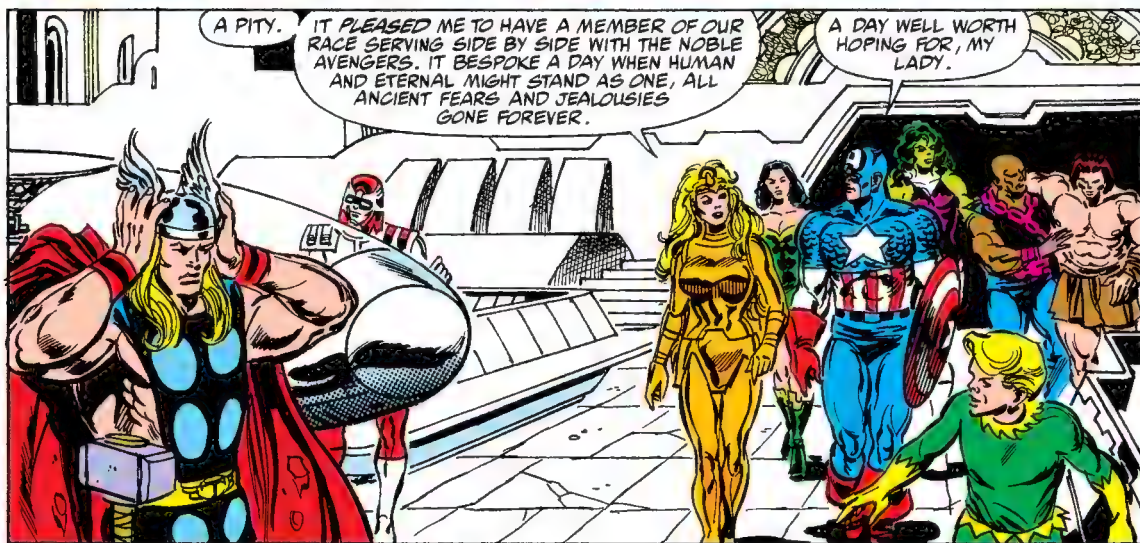
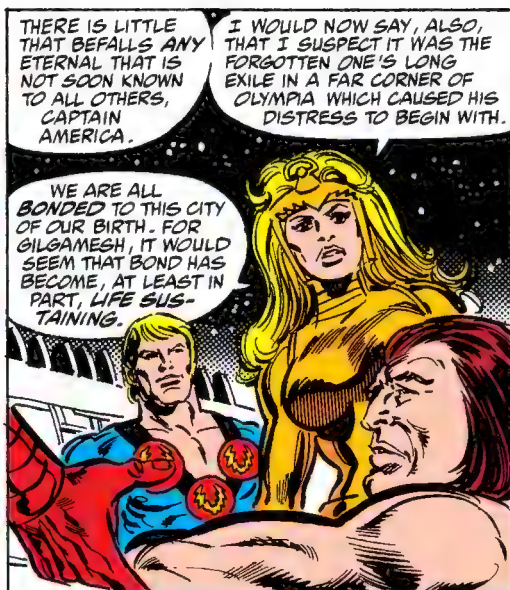




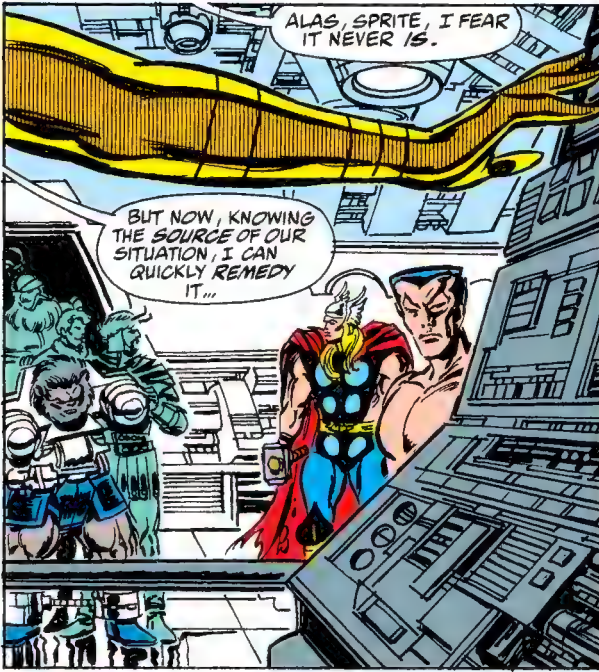














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ANNUAL ATLANTIS ATTACKS™

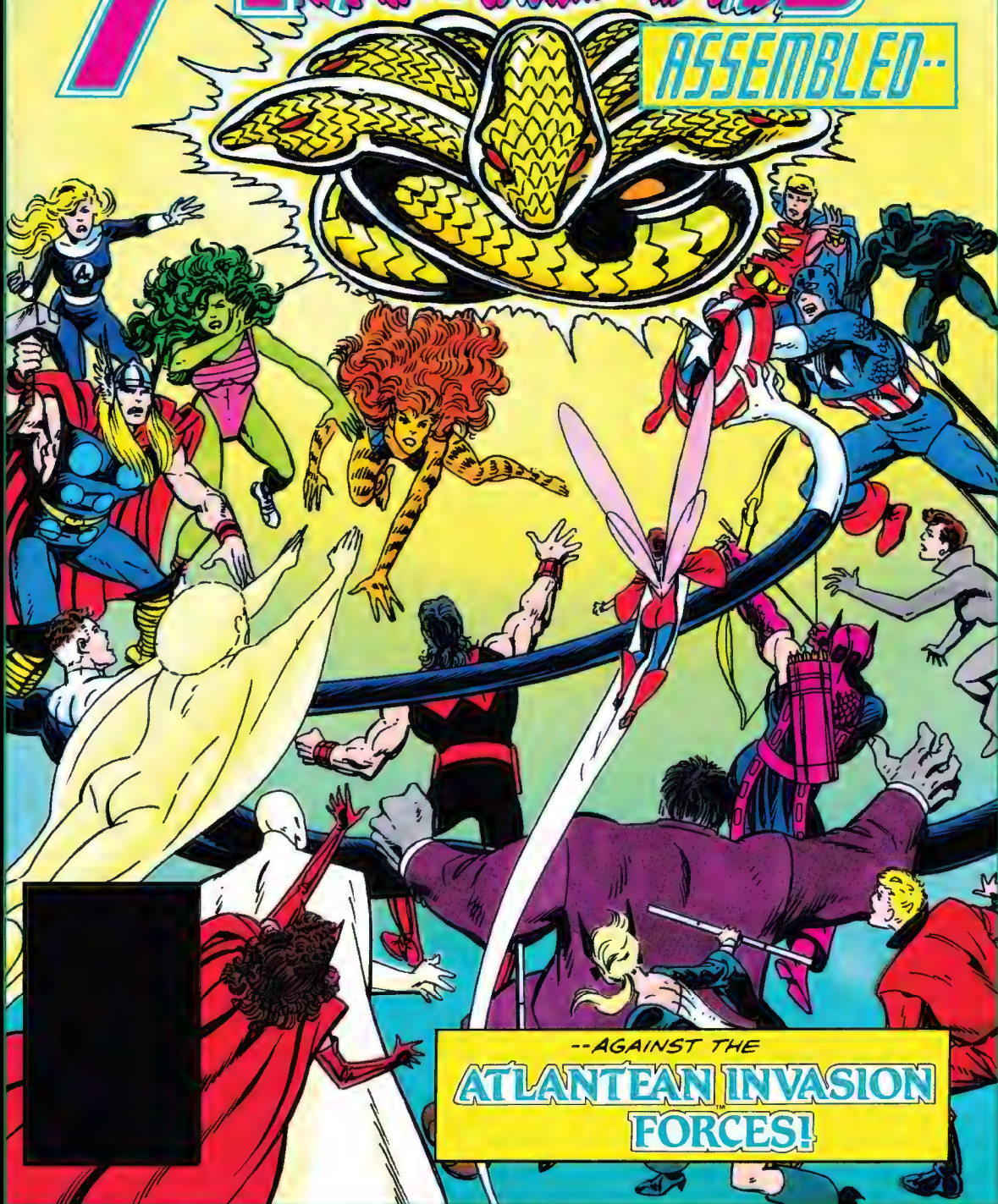
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AVENGERS  
18•1989



# AVENGERS<sup>®</sup>

ASSEMBLED..



--AGAINST THE  
**ATLANTIAN INVASION  
FORCES!**



# ATLANTIS ATTACKS

chapter eight

## AVENGERS

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### SAGA OF THE SERPENT CROWN: MANIFEST DESTINY

pg.58

*By Peter Sanderson, Mark Bagley,  
& Keith Williams*



The story so far ...

With the construction of the sinister *Serpent Crown* completed, Deviant High Priest *Ghaur*, and rebel Lemurian leader *Llyra* prepare to continue the next step in their scheme to bring the Serpent God, *Set*, to Earth. With the apparent death of Sub-Mariner still fresh in their minds, they call upon Atlanteans Warlord *Krang* and *Attuma the Barbarian* to fulfill their part of the scheme ... the attack of all of the Atlantean forces on the surface world ...



Stan Lee  
PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

**M**AGNETO'S ISLAND, HIDDEN  
DEEP WITHIN THE INFAMOUS  
BERMUDA TRIANGLE...

AND SO, LLYRA, IT IS FINISHED.  
THE ALCHEMISTS OF YOUR LEMURIA  
HAVE AT LAST SUCCEEDED IN THE  
RECREATION OF THE SERPENT  
CROWN!

IT HAS NOT MERELY BEEN RECREATED,  
LORD GHAI'R! IT IS GRANDER, MORE  
POWERFUL THAN EVER-- AND IT IS  
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

MORE IMPORTANTLY,  
IT IS THE CRUCIAL ELEMENT  
THAT WILL ENABLE SET'S  
ESSENCE TO PHYSICALLY  
MANIFEST ITSELF ON  
EARTH!

AN EARTH THAT WILL THEN BE  
SUBJECTED TO HIS ULTIMATE  
RULE! BOTH AIR AND WATER-  
BREATHER ALIKE WILL BE FORCED  
TO WORSHIP OUR MASTER AS  
THEIR SUPREME GOD!

AND WE WILL BE THE  
LIEUTENANTS IN HIS  
HOLY CAUSE, PROVIDING  
THE MYSTICAL  
SUSTENANCE UPON  
WHICH HE WILL THRIVE.

**MICHAEL  
HIGGINS**  
WRITER

**RON  
WILSON**  
PENCILER

**MIKE  
GUSTOVICH**  
INKER

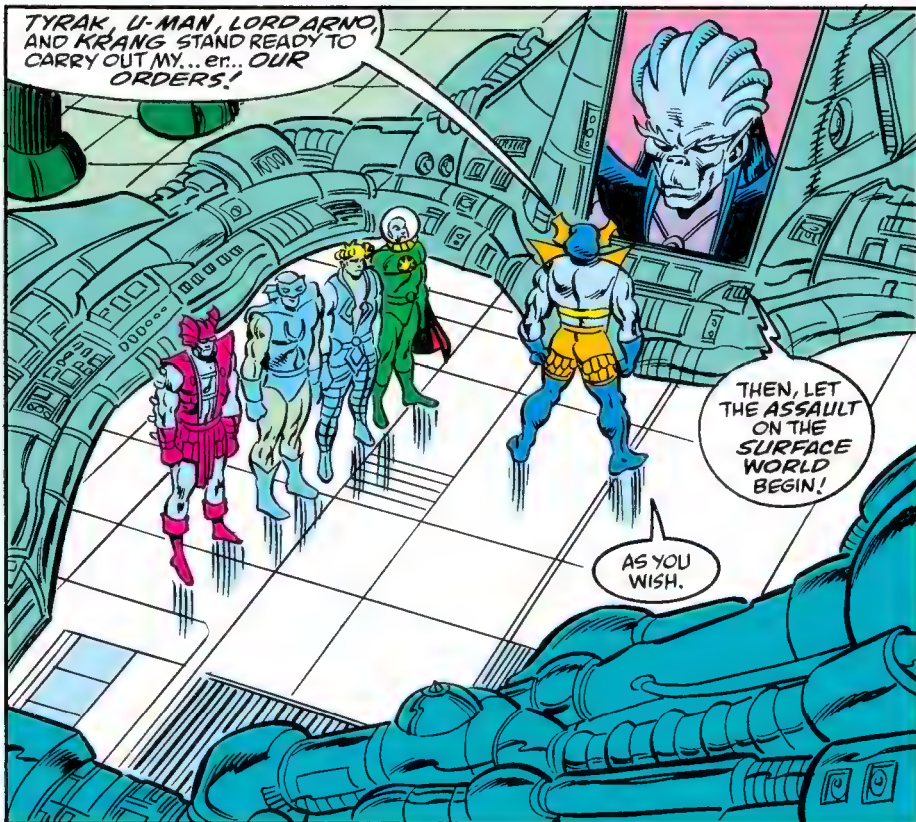
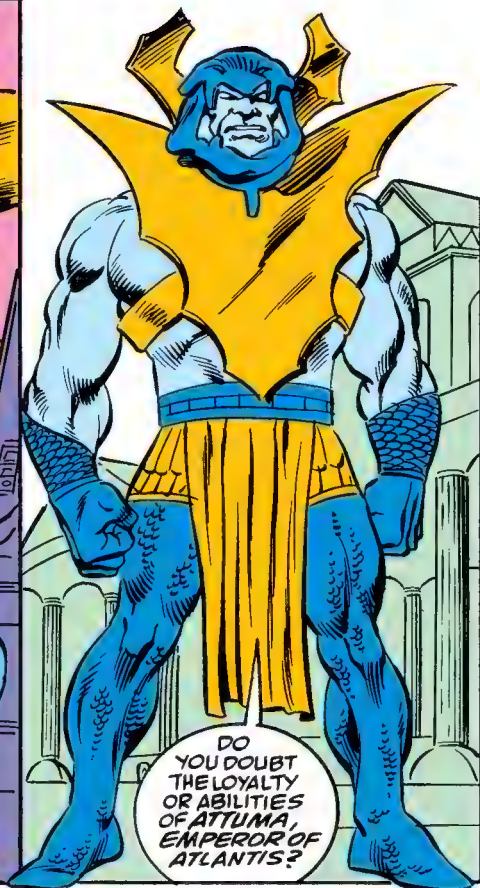
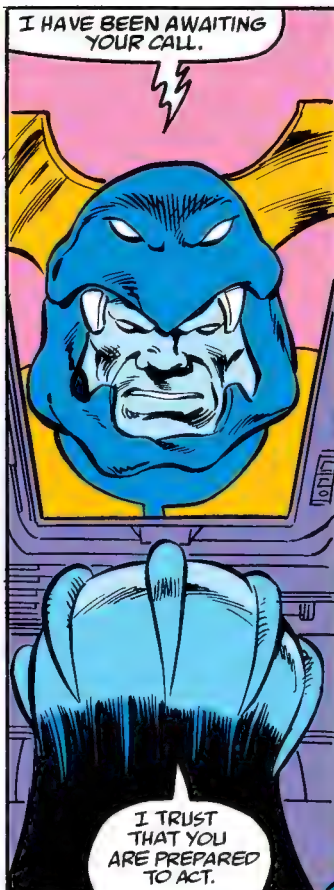
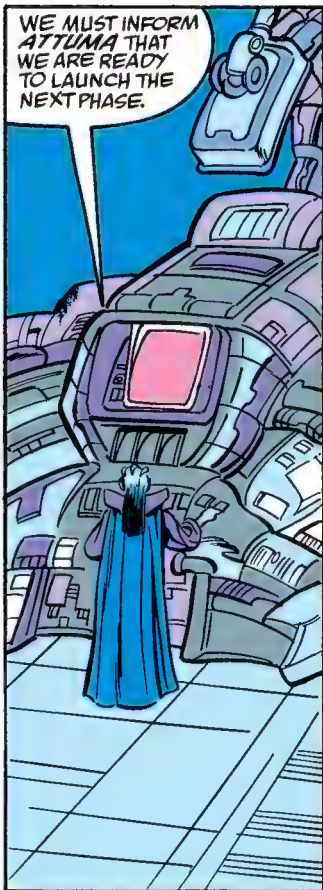
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PARKER**  
LETTERING

**MARC  
SIRY**  
COLORIST

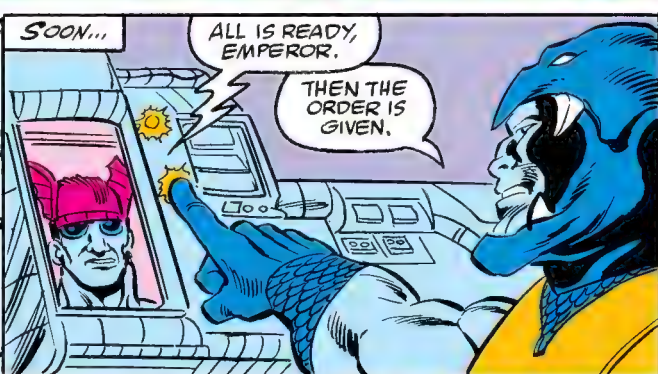
**HOWARD  
MACKIE**  
EDITOR

**TOM  
DeFALCO**  
ED. IN CHIEF











"-- AND LET THE SURFACE WORLD TREMBLE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF ATLANTIS!"

OUR  
TARGETS  
HAVE  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
CHOSEN.

IT IS TIME TO  
SEPARATE OUR  
FORCES AND  
ATTACK!

**HAIL  
ATLANTIS!  
HAIL  
SET!**

THE ASSAULTS BEGAN  
WITHOUT WARNING!

ALREADY UNDER SIEGE  
ARE A SERIES OF CIVIL-  
IAN AND MILITARY IN-  
STALLATIONS ALONG THE  
EAST COAST OF THE  
UNITED STATES--

"-- CAPE CANAVERAL,  
FLORIDA..."

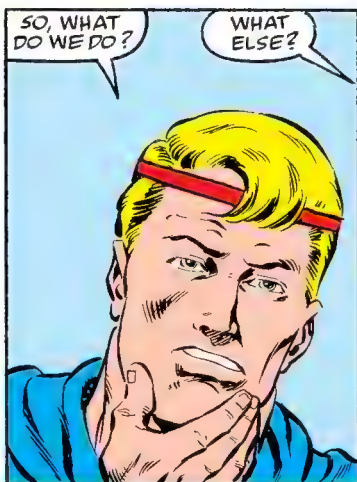
"... FORT HAMILTON  
ARMY BASE, IN NEW  
YORK..."

"... LANGLEY AIR  
FORCE BASE, IN  
VIRGINIA..."

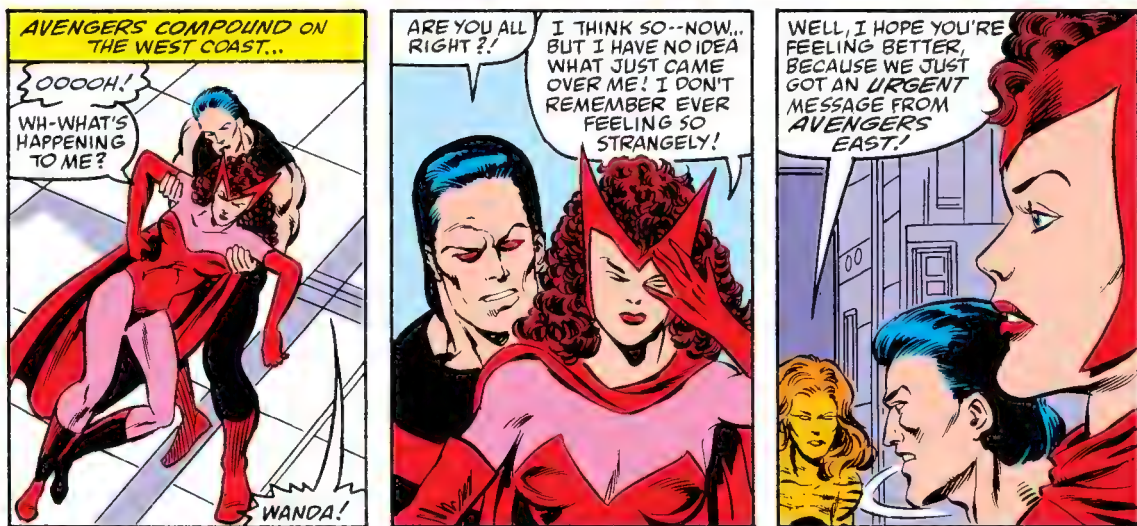
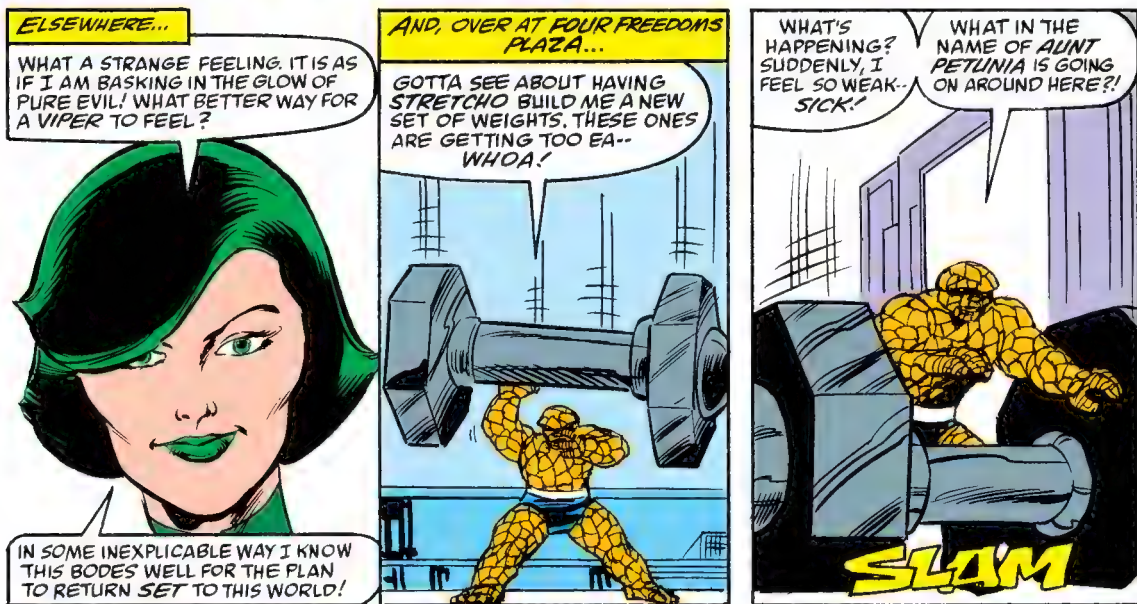
"... AND THE  
SHOREHAM  
NUCLEAR  
PLANT."

ALREADY,  
HEAVY  
CASUALTIES  
HAVE BEEN  
REPORTED AT  
EACH  
LOCATION.













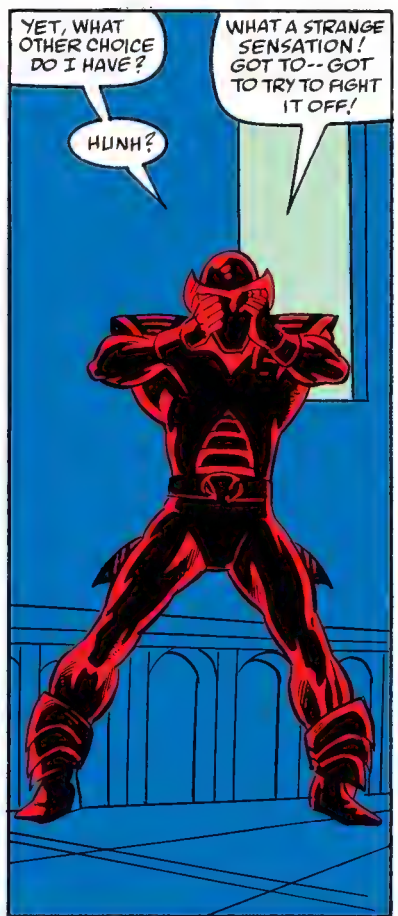
AND...

PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO ACT.



THE SITUATION IS GROWING CRITICAL MUCH MORE RAPIDLY THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED.

BUT, CAN I REVEAL MY EXISTENCE? IT IS NOT A MOVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN LIGHTLY.



YET, WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO I HAVE?

HUNH?

WHAT A STRANGE SENSATION! GOT TO-- GOT TO TRY TO FIGHT IT OFF!

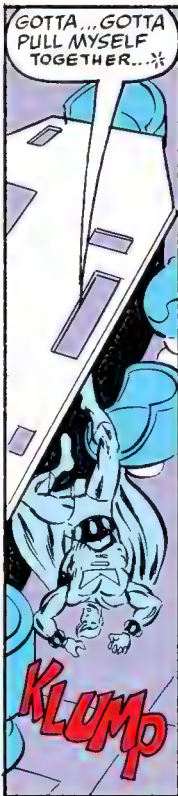


AND, BACK AT THE AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS...

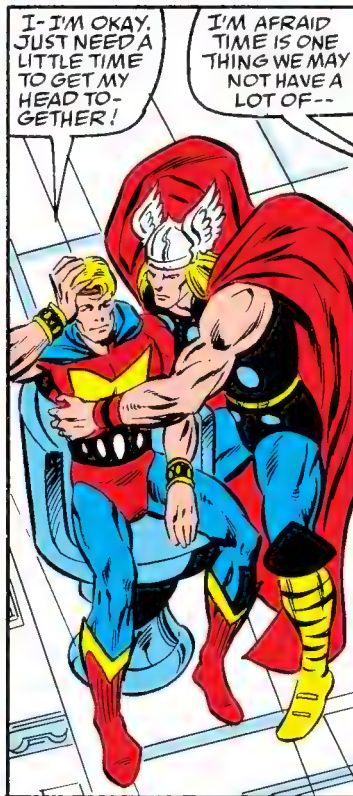
QUASAR!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I-- I'M NOT SURE! FEEL... SO...

...WOOZY.



GOTTA... GOTTA PULL MYSELF TOGETHER... ❄️



I-I'M OKAY. JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER!

I'M AFRAID TIME IS ONE THING WE MAY NOT HAVE A LOT OF--



THEY'RE HERE!!



Stan Lee PRESENTS:

# AVENGERS

# ASSEMBLED



MISTER FANTASTIC ARRIVING AS YOU REQUESTED...

...ALONG WITH MY LOVELY WIFE, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN!

I MAY NOT BE SO LOVELY, BUT I'M HERE, TOO.

OH, I DON'T KNOW, THING... I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE KIND OF CUTE!

AW, SHUCKS, CAPTAIN MARVEL-- YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME BLUSH!

WHO COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHER WITH YOU GUYS, BUT WHEN THERE'S A WORLD TO BE SAVED, THE HULK WILL BE THERE!

YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S HERE BUT STEED AND MRS. PEEL!

WHO?

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THEM, BLACK WIDOW... HAWKEYE'S JUST BEING HIS USUAL SELF.

YEAH. DON'T WORRY, I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THEM LATER.

...WITH THE BLACK PANTHER RIGHT BEHIND!

VISION REPORTING FOR INSTRUCTIONS...

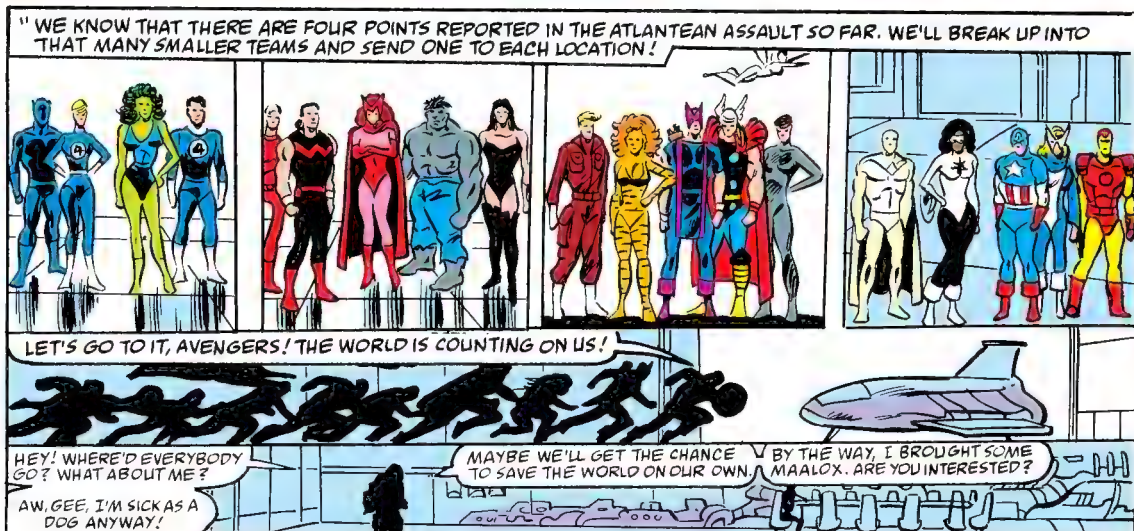
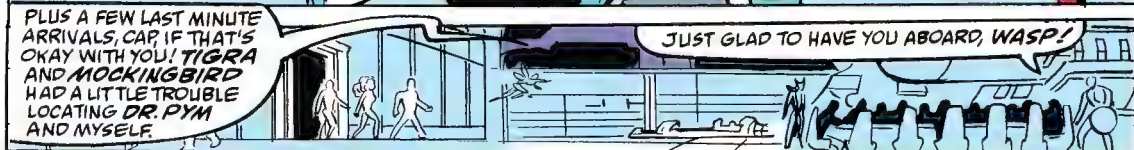
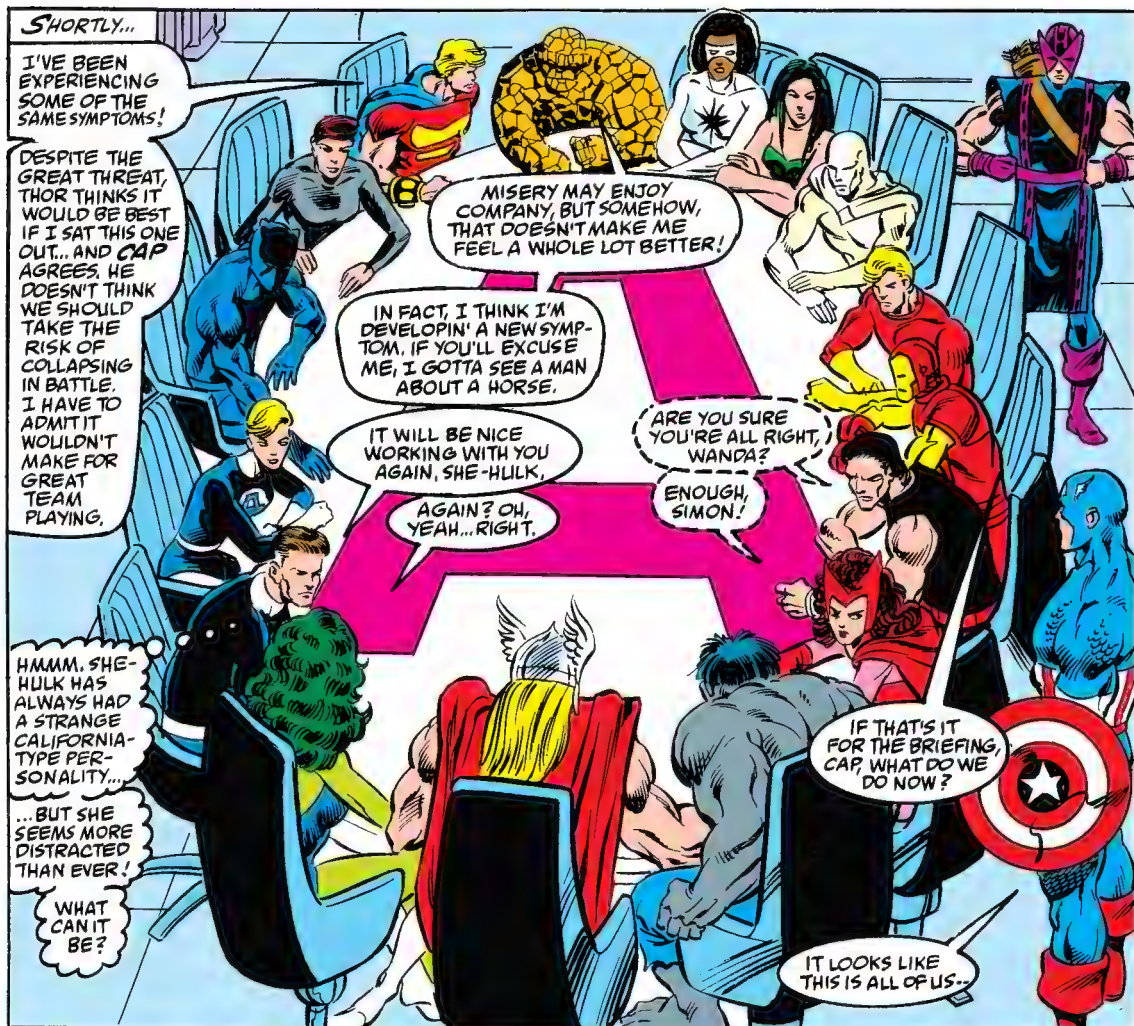
WONDER MAN HERE... WITH THE SCARLET WITCH. SHE'S... UH... NOT FEELING VERY WELL.

I'M FEELING JUST FINE, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST PUT ME DOWN?!

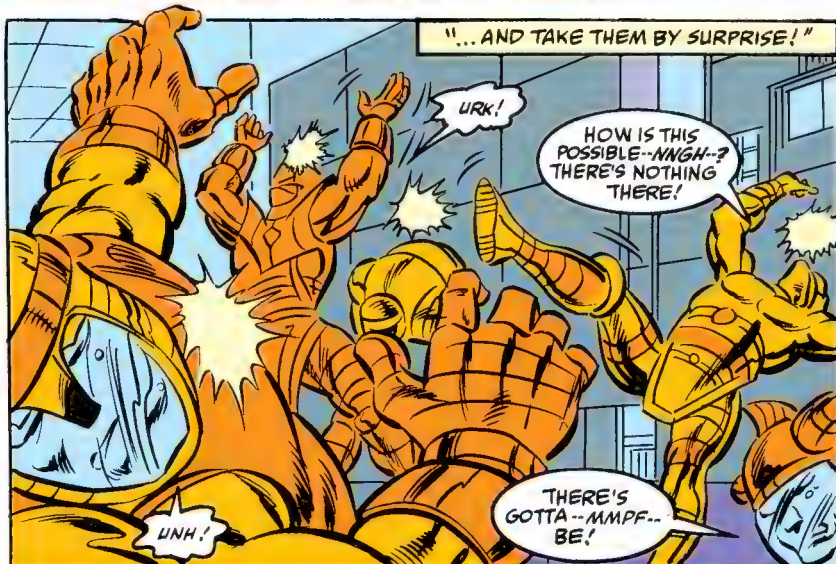
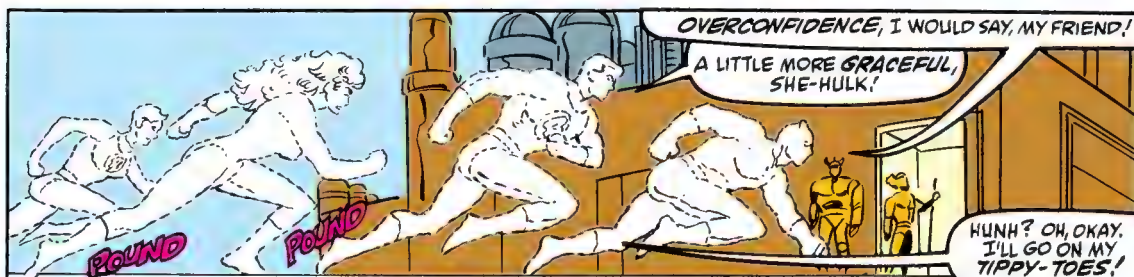
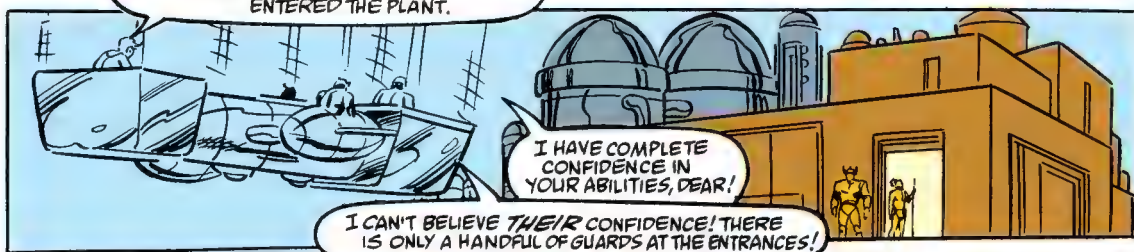
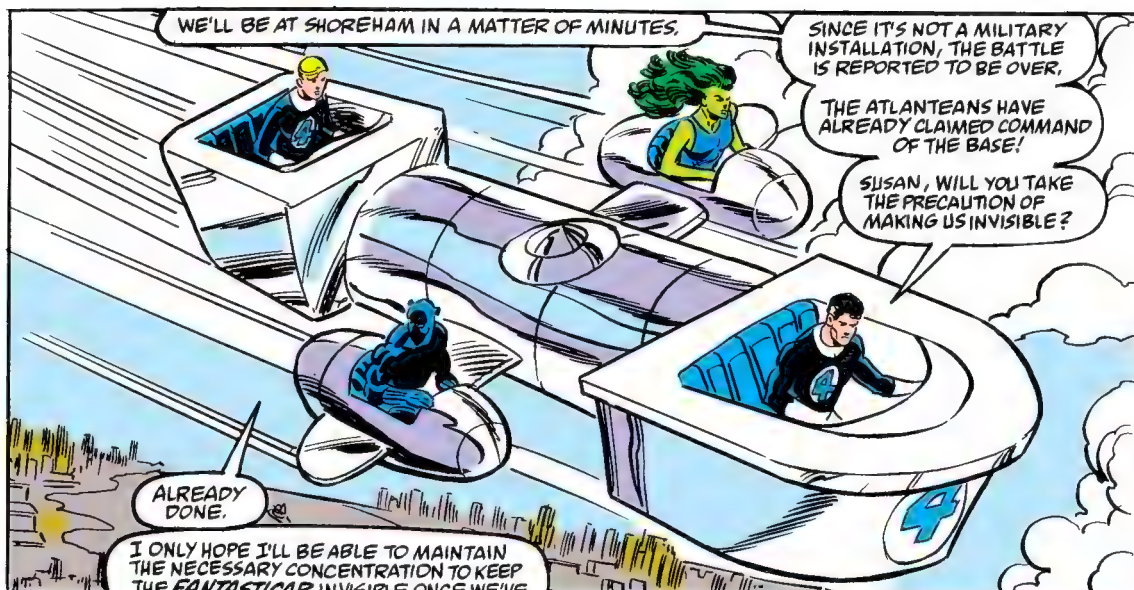
I KNEW YOU WOULD ANSWER OUR CALL, IRON MAN!

YOU GOT IT, BUDDY!

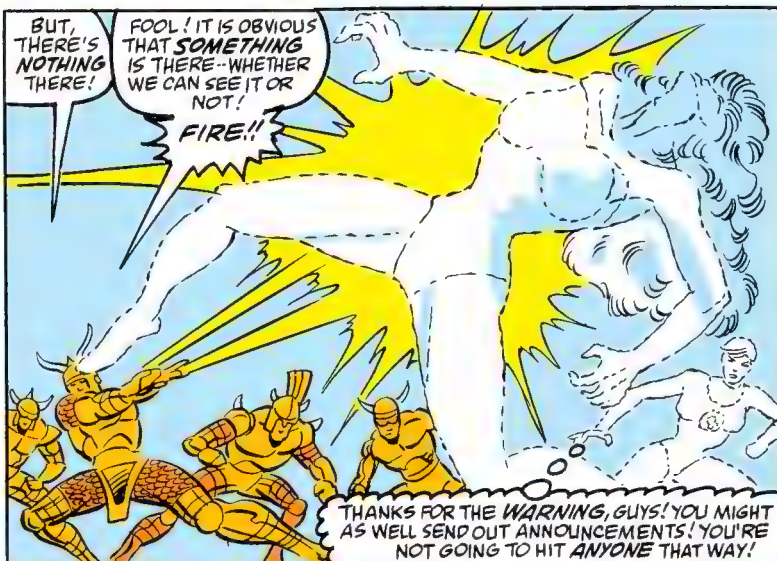
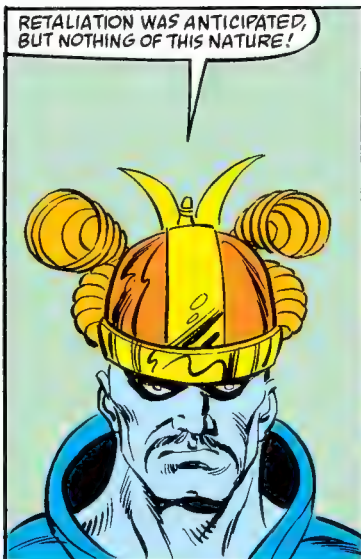














SHRRRT

GOOD  
GRIEF!

IT APPEARS  
YOU HAVE  
ALREADY HEARD OF  
**ORKA,**  
THE KILLER  
WHALE!

BAP

POP

POP

BAM

POP

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS INSTALLATION IS  
DEFENDED BY MORE THAN MERE MEN!





AT LEAST NOW  
IT'LL BE A FIGHT!



THIS IS YOUR GREAT  
ABILITY--?

TO SLIP AWAY  
LIKE AN  
EEL?



IT COMES IN  
HANDY.

PERHAPS... BUT YOU MUST  
REALIZE HOW USELESS IT  
WILL BE AGAINST **POWER**  
LIKE MINE!



THAT'S WHERE  
WE COME IN,  
**BUB!**



YOUR STRENGTH MIGHT  
PRESENT A PROBLEM IF  
WE WERE TO FACE YOU  
INDIVIDUALLY.

BUT TO-  
GETHER...!



**ZZZZZZPOW**





NUFF SAID!



IMPOSSIBLE!  
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, LORD ARNO?

WITHOUT ORKA, WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THEM.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

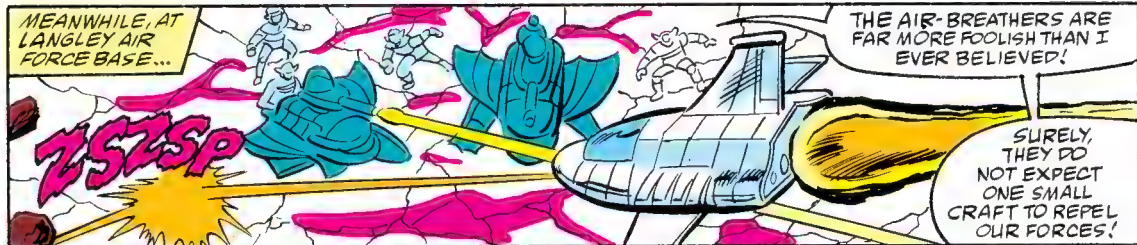


RETREAT!!

SHOULD WE GO AFTER THEM?

THERE WILL BE TIME ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THEM LATER.

FIRST, WE SECURE THE BASE AND SEE TO CONFINING THE KILLER WHALE!



MEANWHILE, AT LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE...

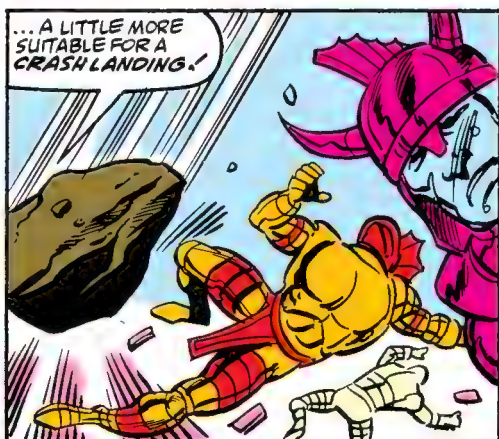
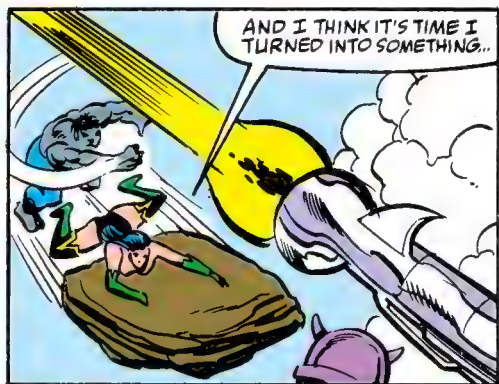
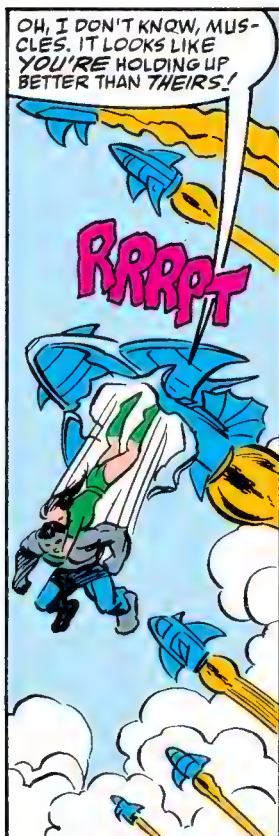
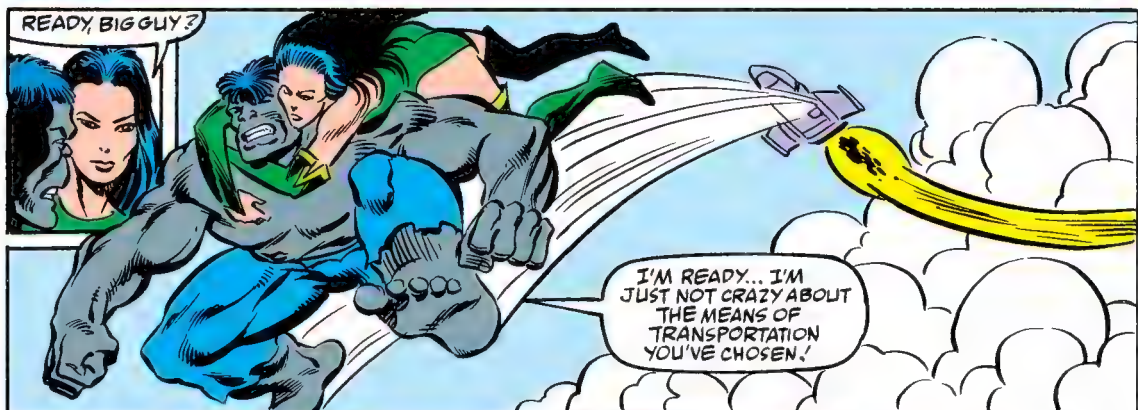
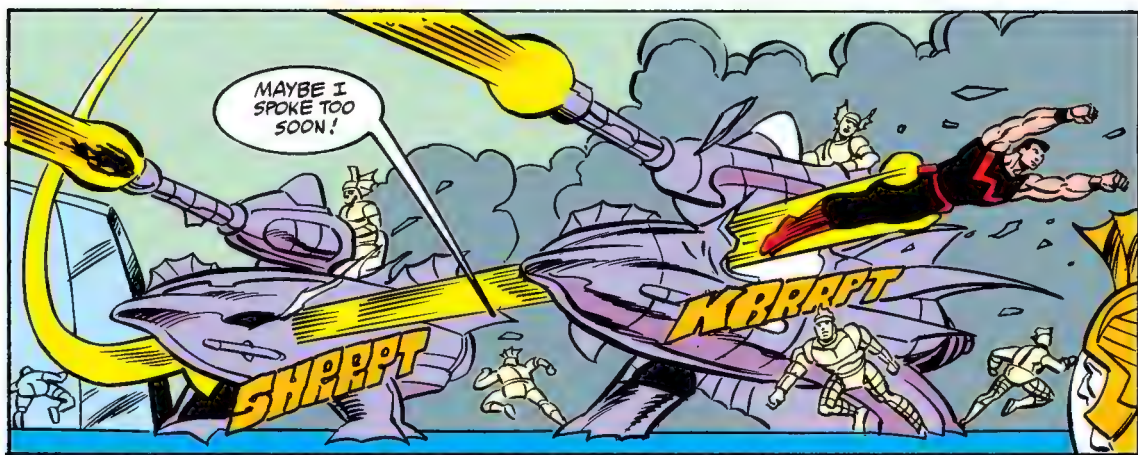
THE AIR-BREATHERS ARE FAR MORE FOOLISH THAN I EVER BELIEVED!

SURELY, THEY DO NOT EXPECT ONE SMALL CRAFT TO REPEL OUR FORCES!

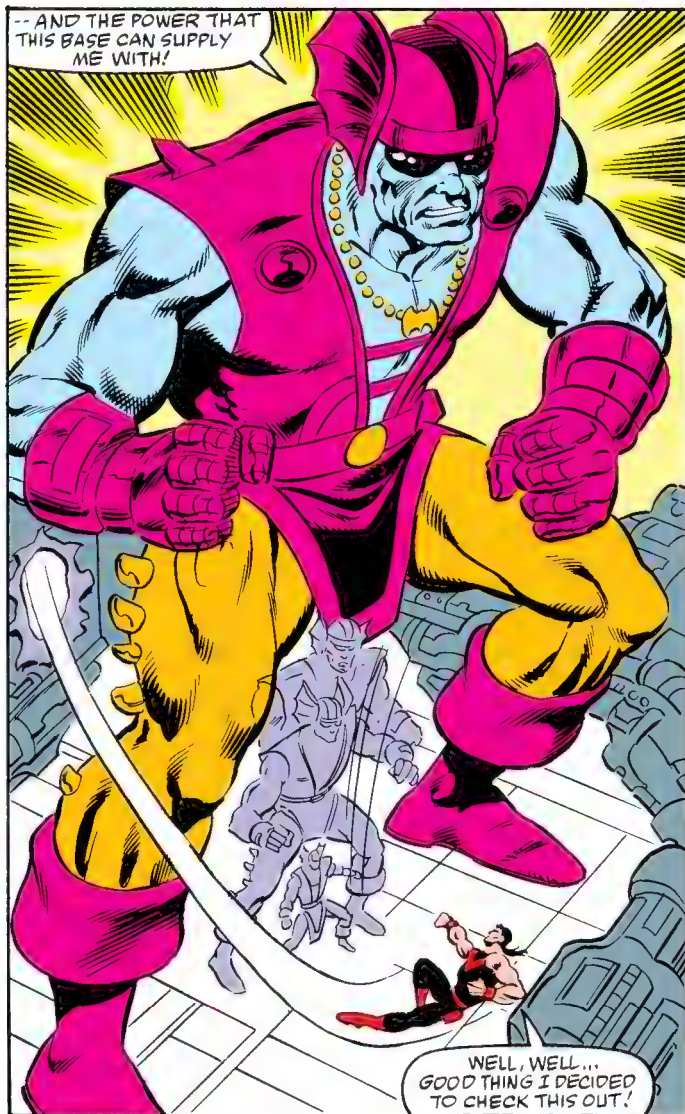
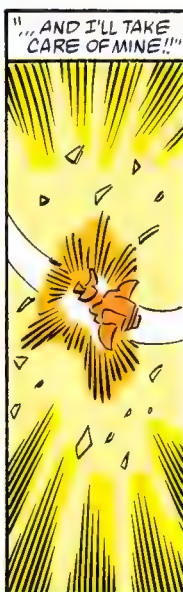
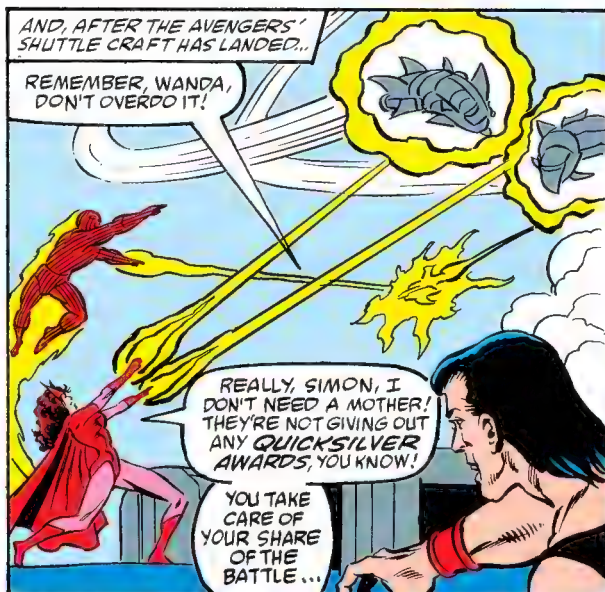


NO, THEY DO NOT.

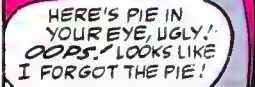
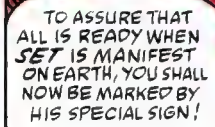
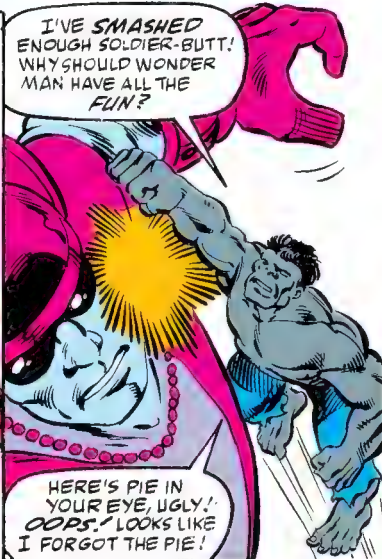
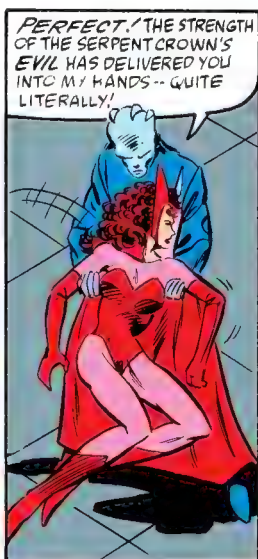
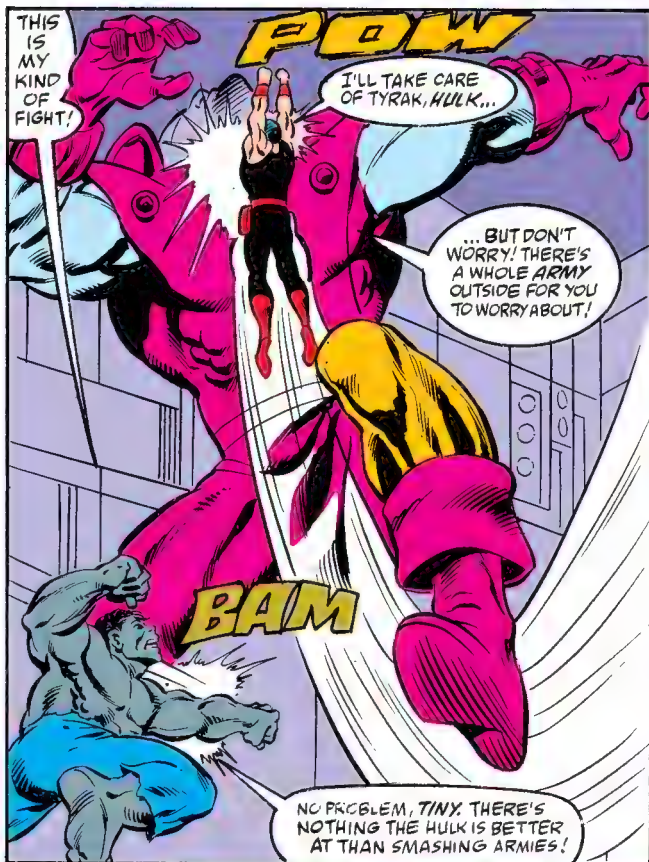




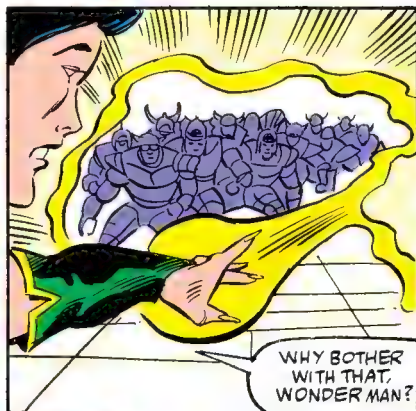
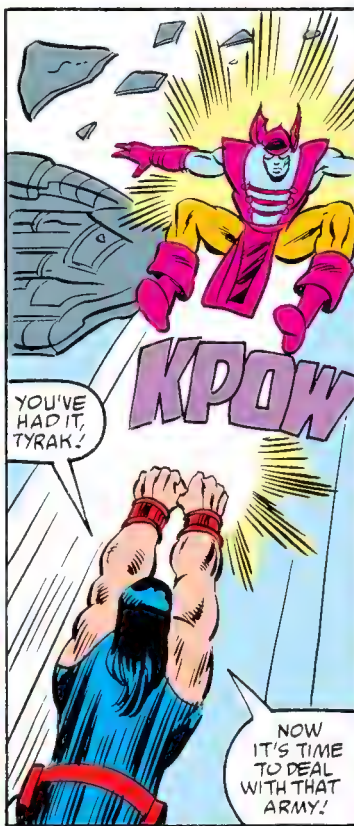
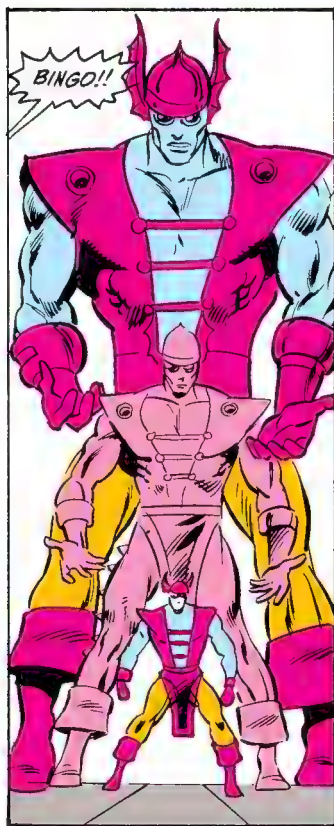
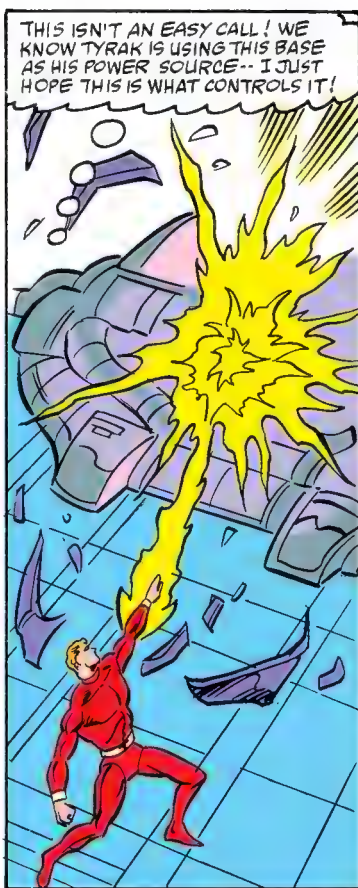




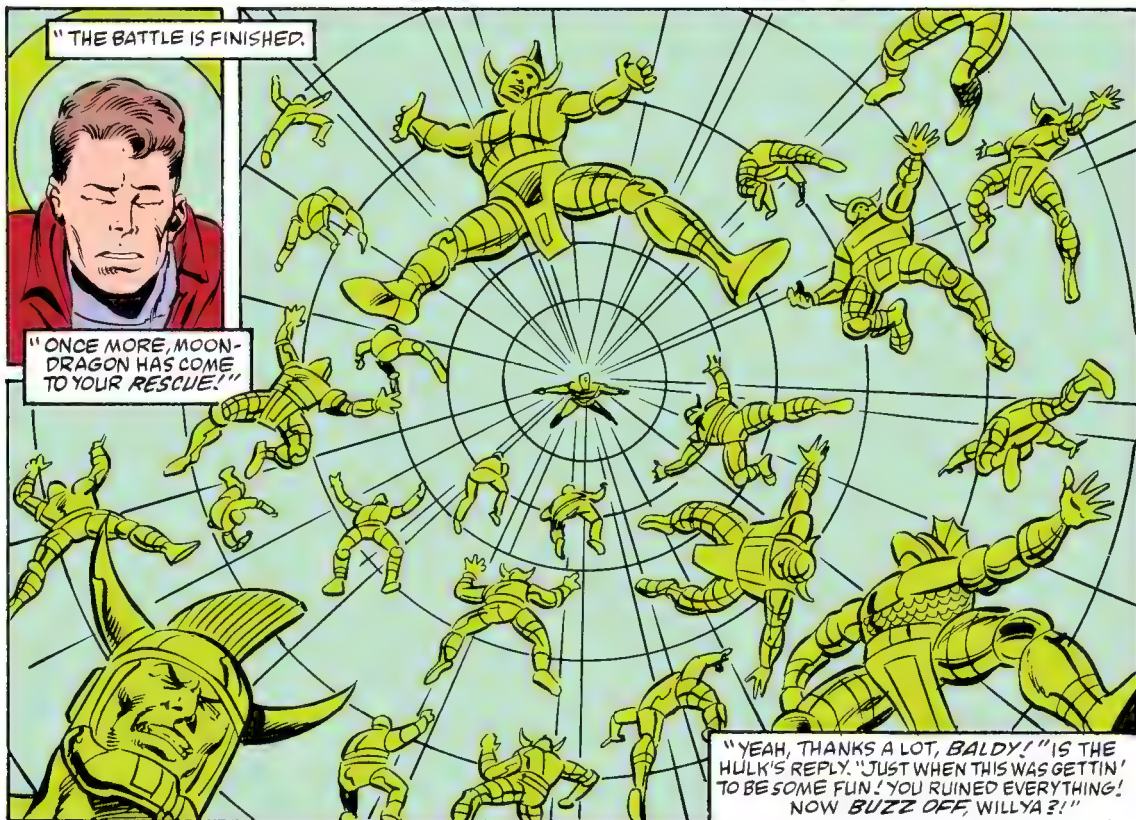
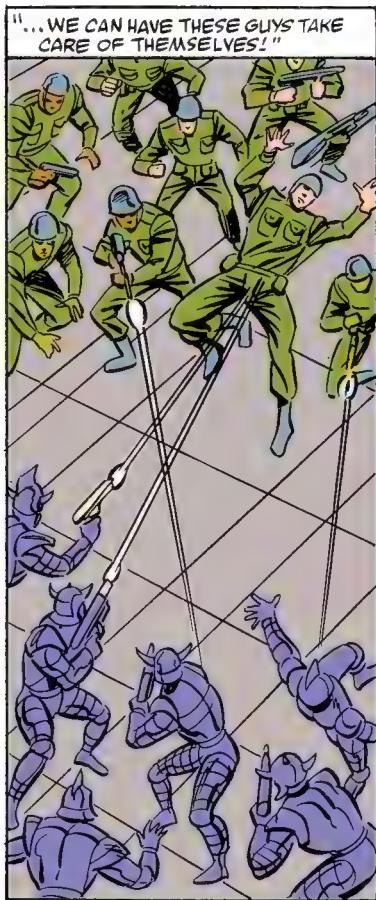




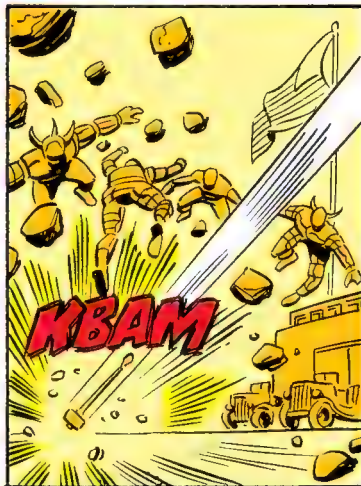
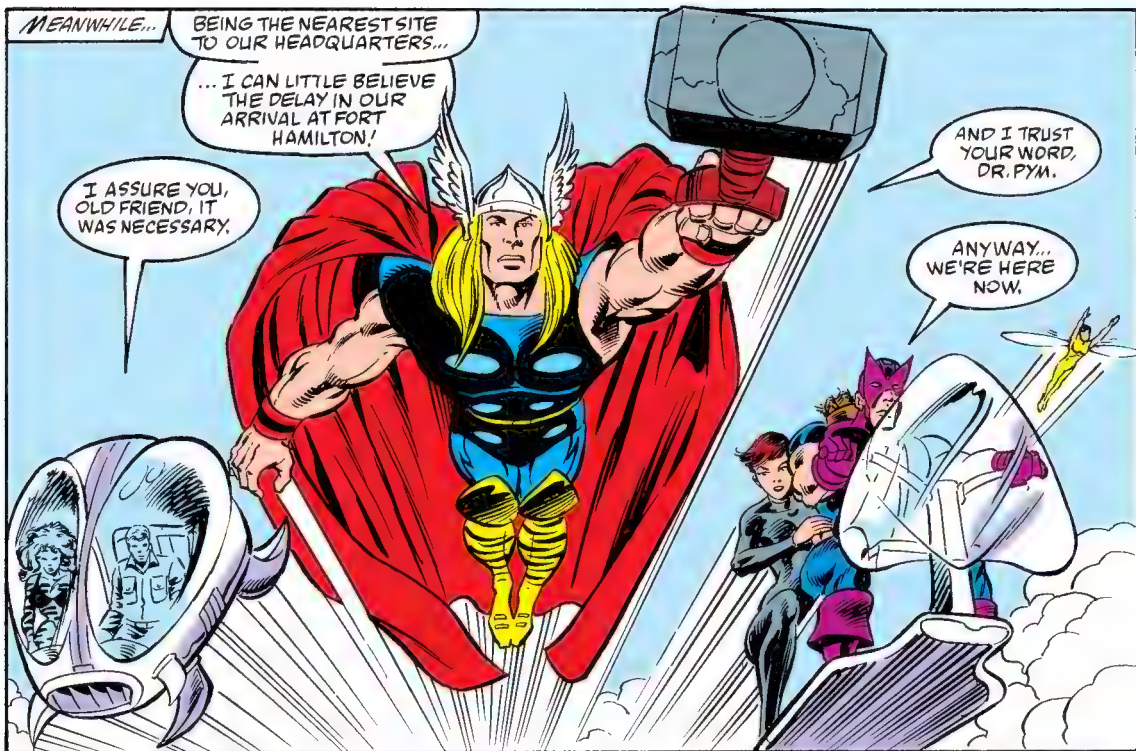




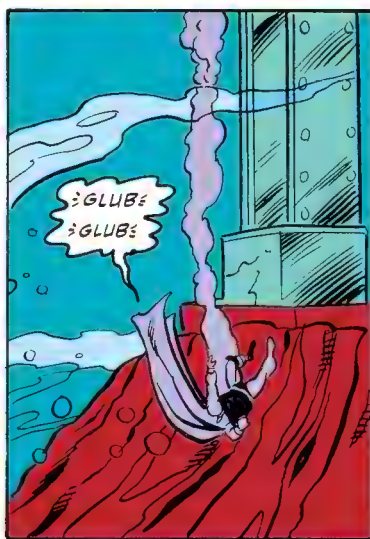
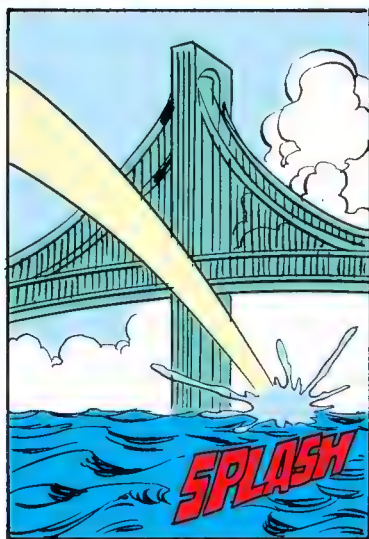
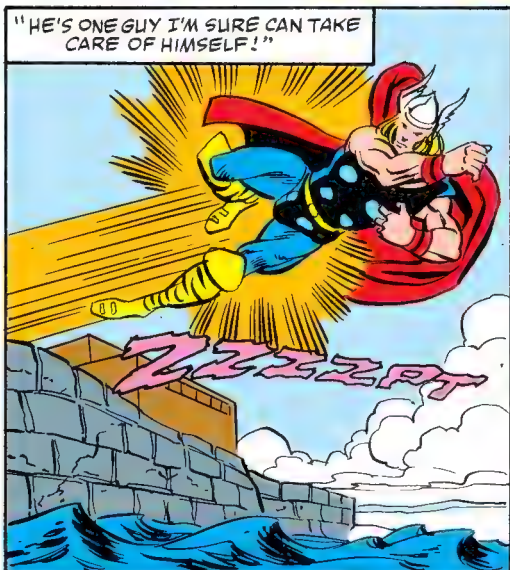
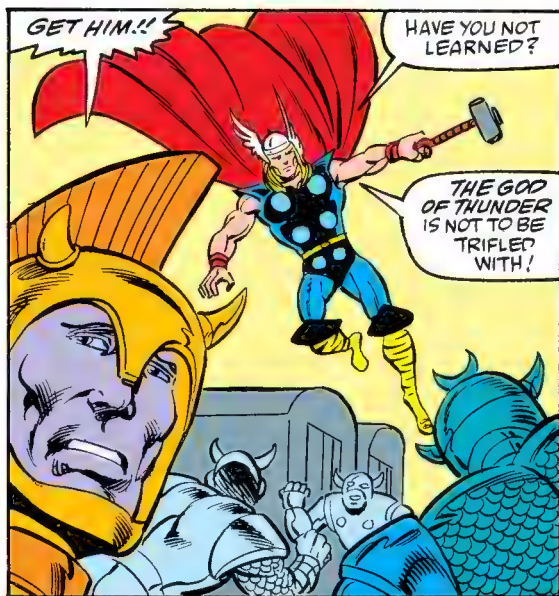




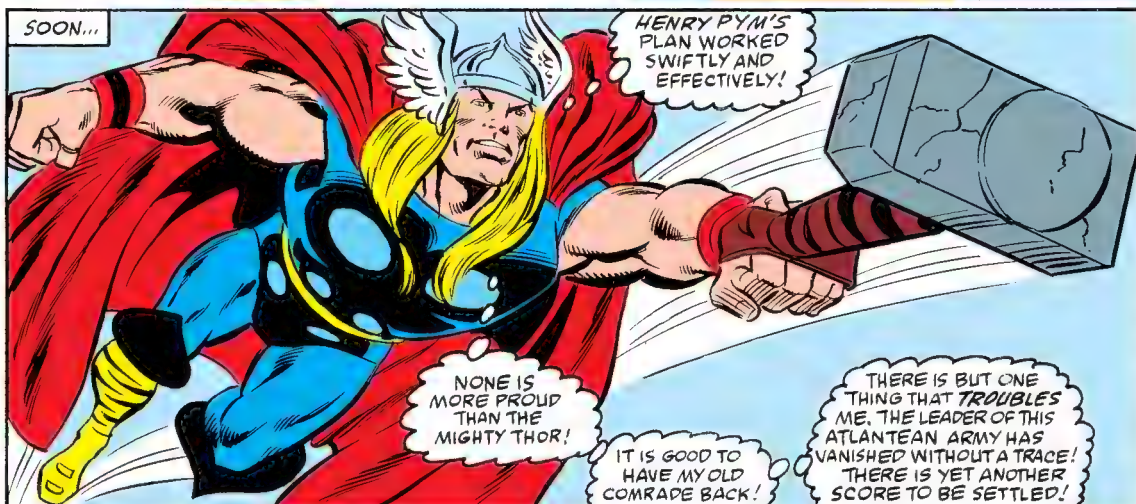
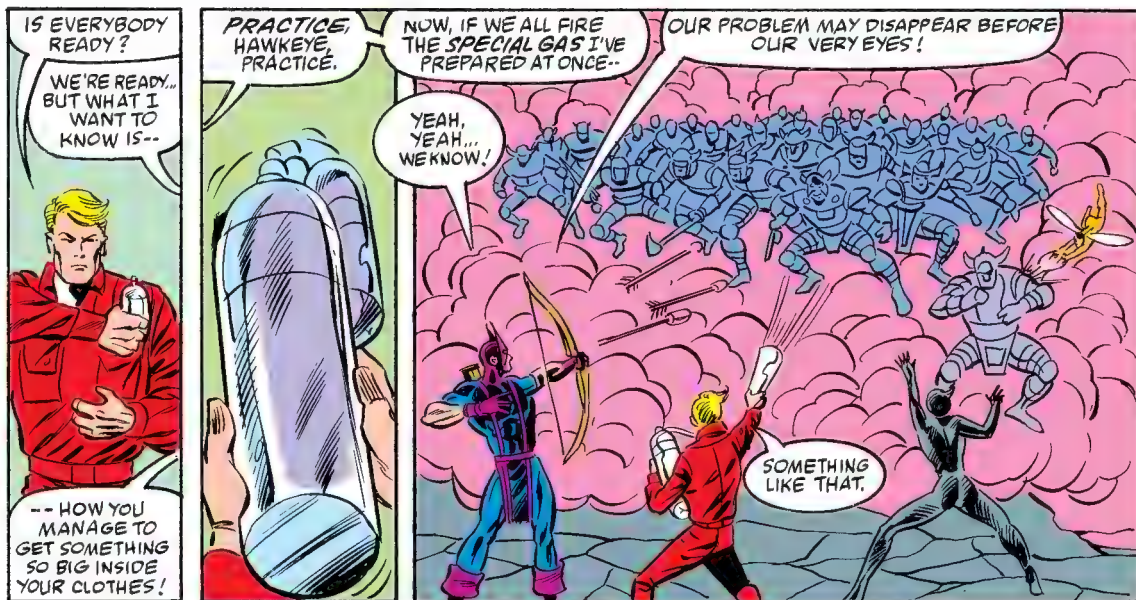




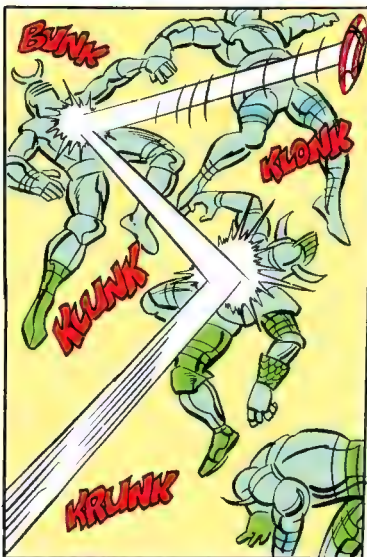
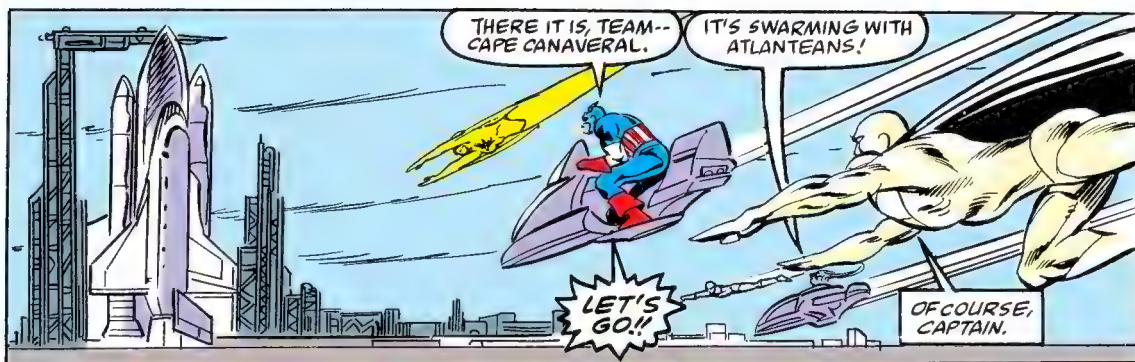








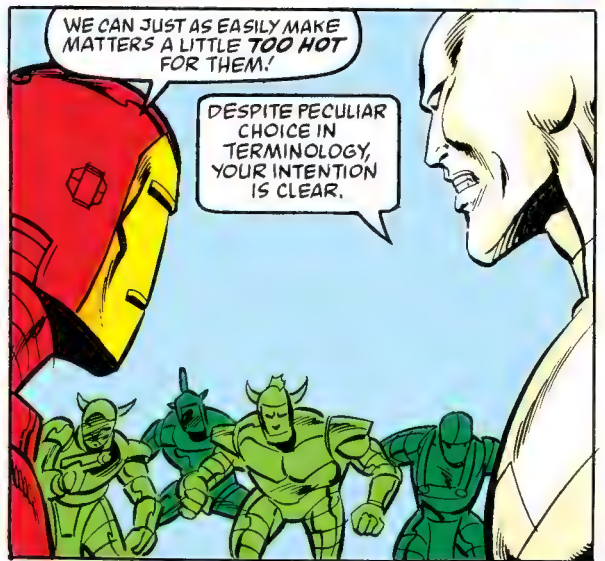




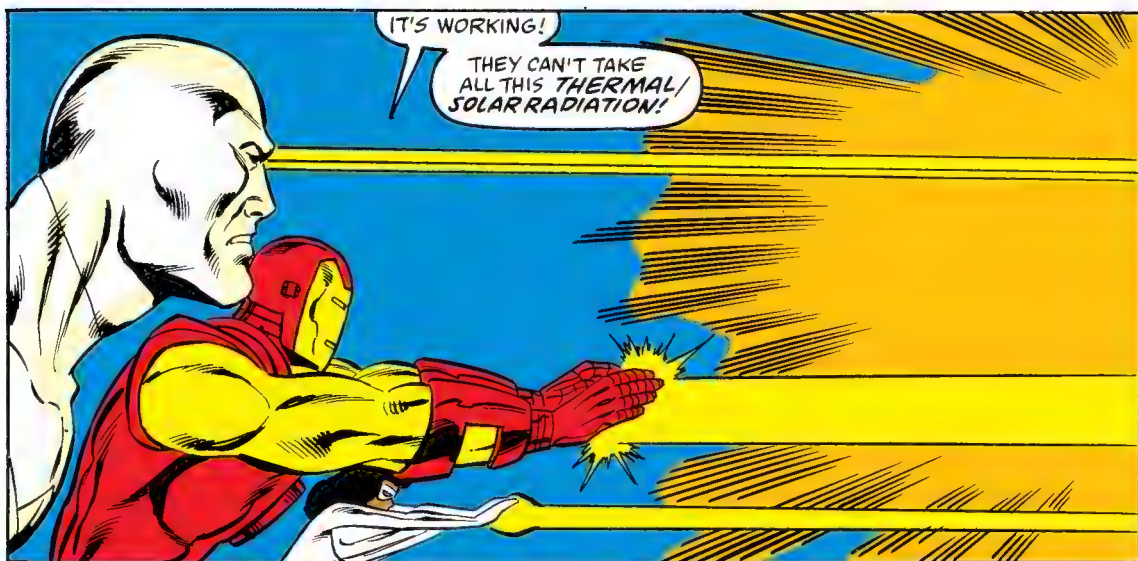








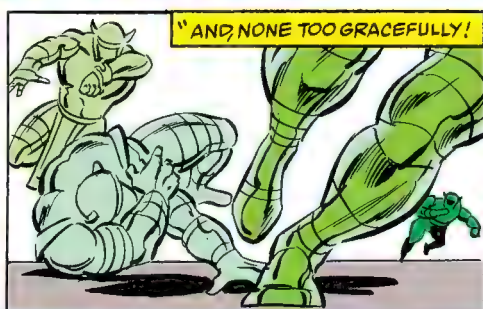




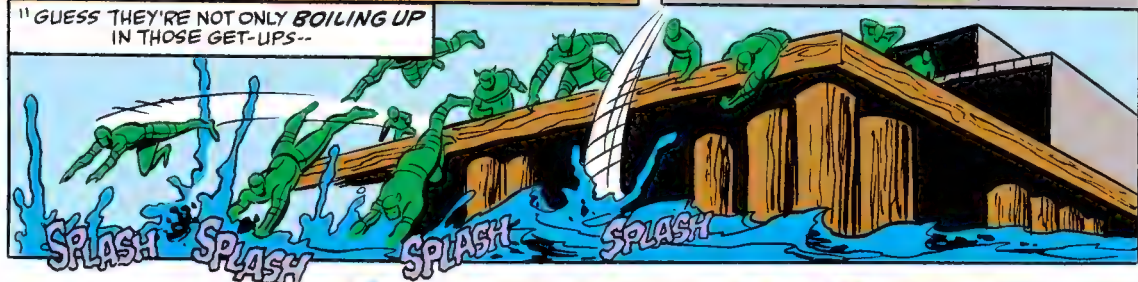
IT'S WORKING!  
THEY CAN'T TAKE  
ALL THIS **THERMAL/  
SOLAR RADIATION!**



THEY'RE  
**FLEEING!**



"AND, NONE TOO GRACEFULLY!"



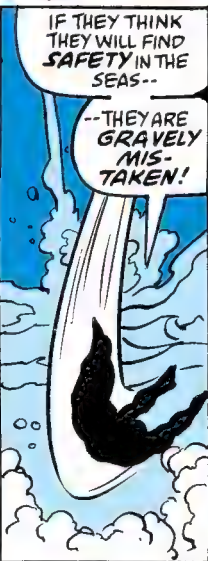
"GUESS THEY'RE NOT ONLY **BOILING UP**  
IN THOSE GET-UPS--



"-- BUT A  
LITTLE BIT  
**BLINDED**  
BY OUR  
DAZZLING  
DISPLAY TO  
BOOT."



**PANICKED,  
DISORIENTED**  
THE ATLANTEANS  
ARE UNAWARE  
THAT THEIR  
ACTIONS HAVE  
BEEN OBSERVED  
BY **ANOTHER!**



IF THEY THINK  
THEY WILL FIND  
**SAFETY** IN THE  
SEAS--  
--THEY ARE  
**GRAVELY MIS-  
TAKEN!**

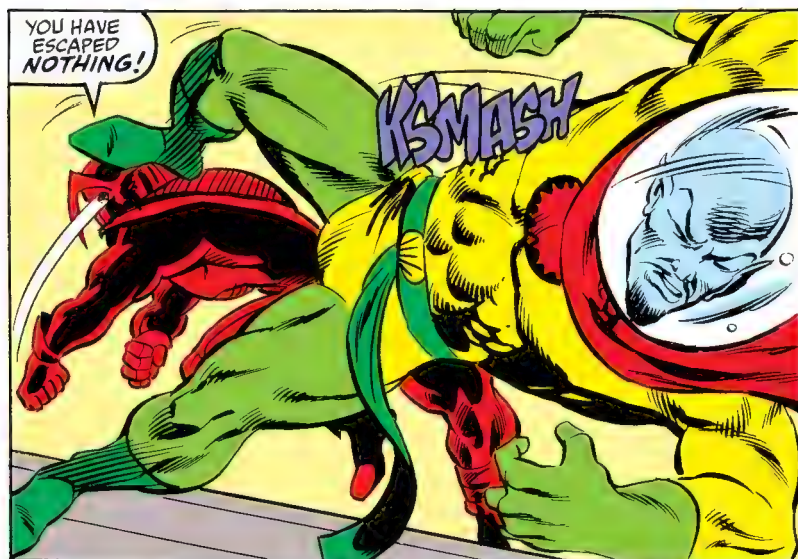
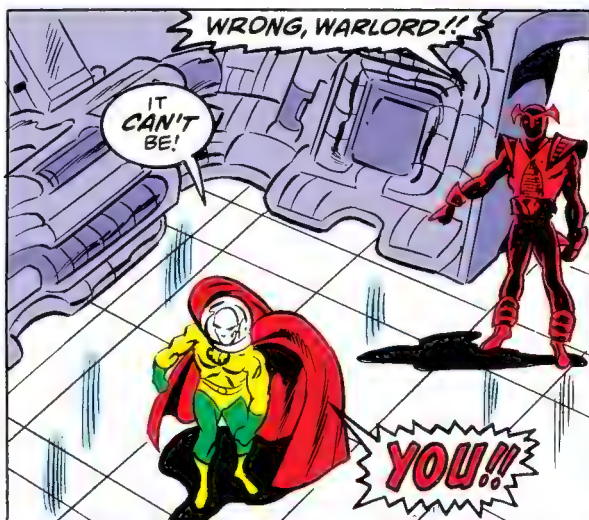
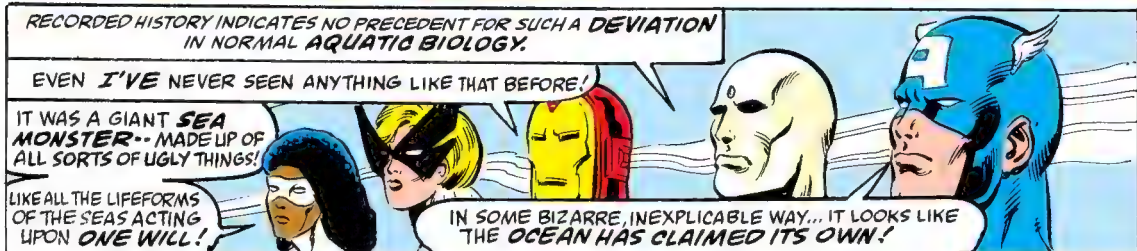
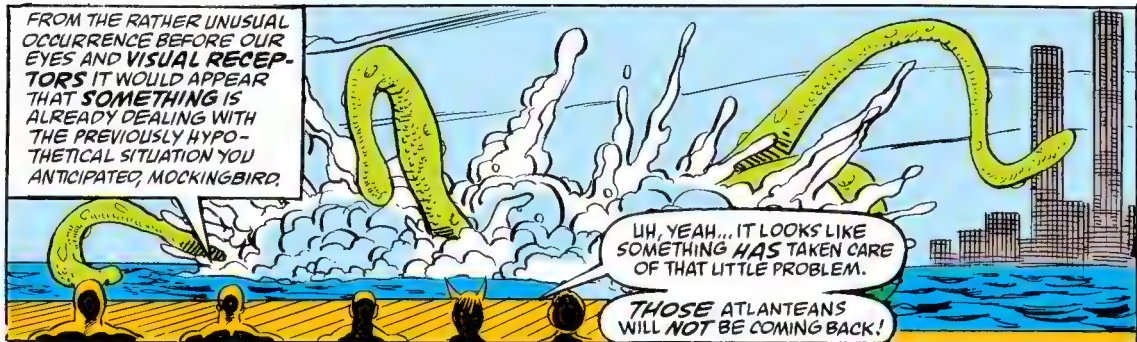


ONE THING  
WORRIES  
ME, CAPTAIN.  
WHAT'S TO  
STOP THEM  
FROM COMING  
RIGHT BACK  
AFTER  
THEY'VE  
**COOLED**  
OFF A BIT?

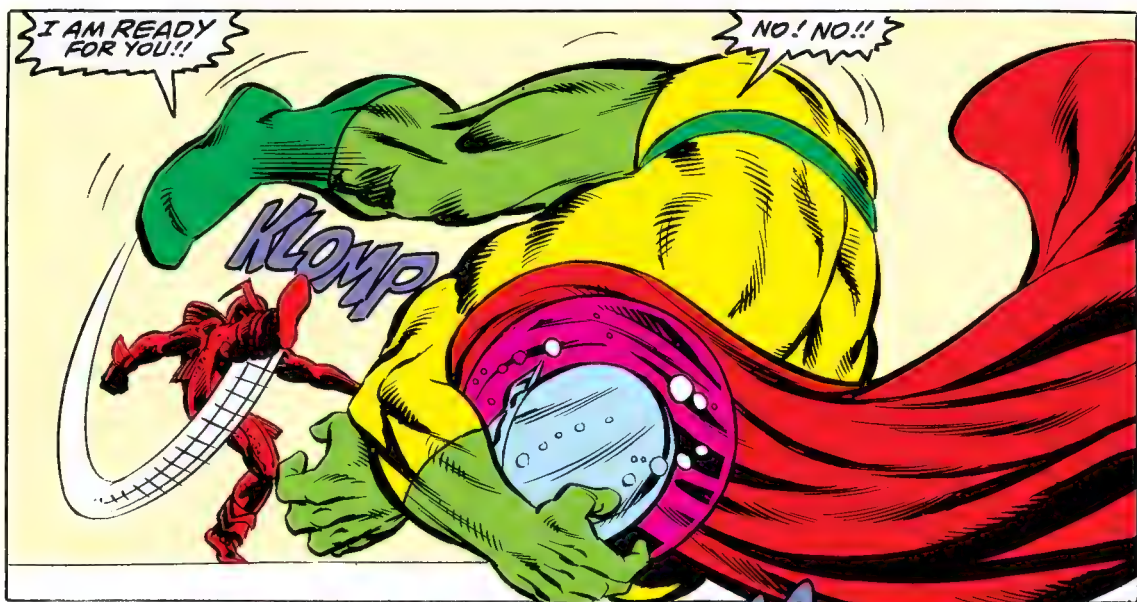


WHAT,  
INDEED?

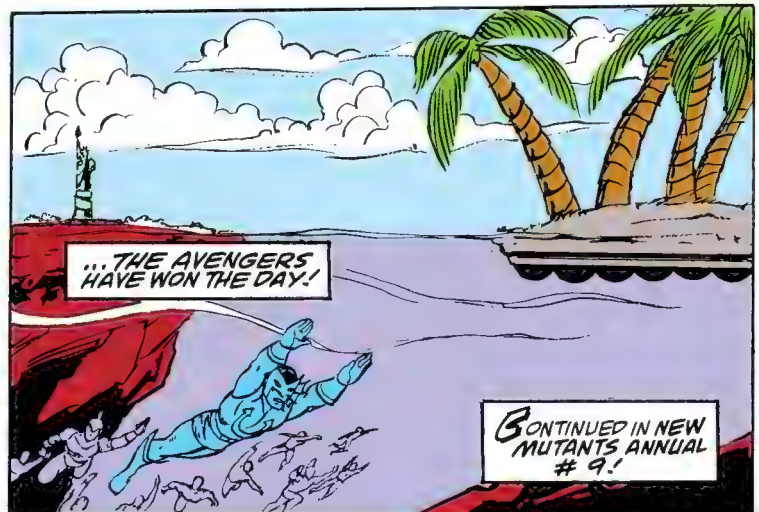
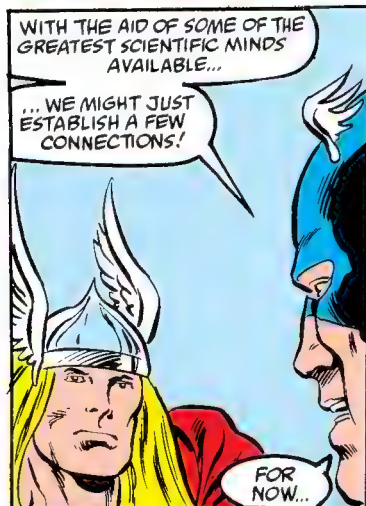
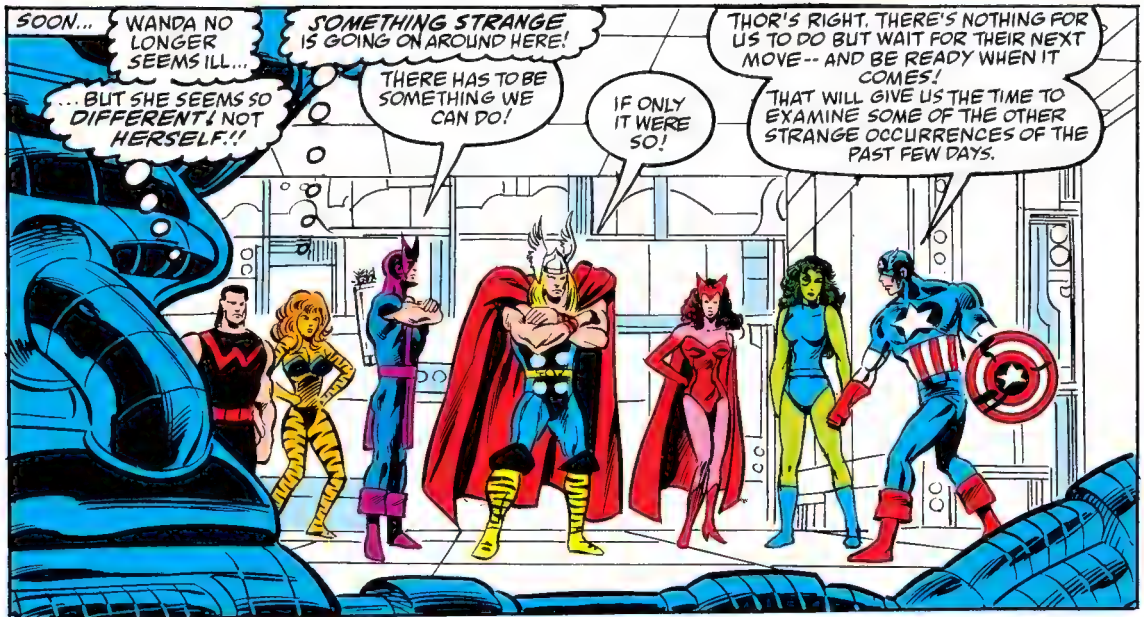














# THE INITIATION OF *QUASAR*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE GARGANTUAN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NAMED SUPER-NOVA AND OVER A DOZEN OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SUPERHUMAN CHAMPIONS HAS ENDED IN EARTH'S VICTORY.

AND NOW, THOSE HEROES TAKE A FEW MINUTES' BREATH BEFORE ONCE MORE GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS...

SHEEZE! ALL THOSE SUPER-GUYS, AND NOT A ONE OF THEM MAKES CHI-TOWN HIS HOME!

YOU MEAN YOU NEVER HEARD OF DAMAGE CONTROL?

WHEREFORE NOW, FIRELORD?

QUASAR-- WAIT A MINUTE, SON!

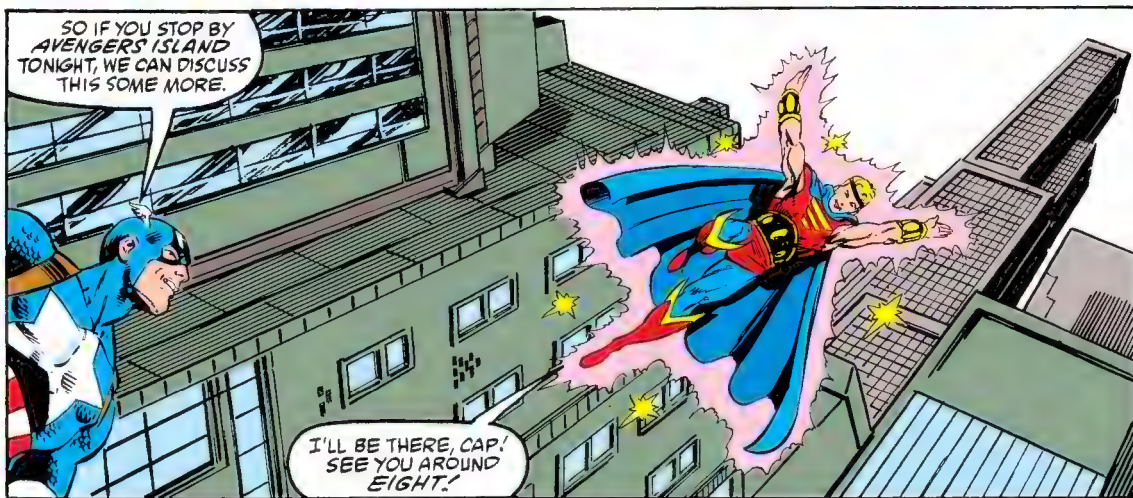
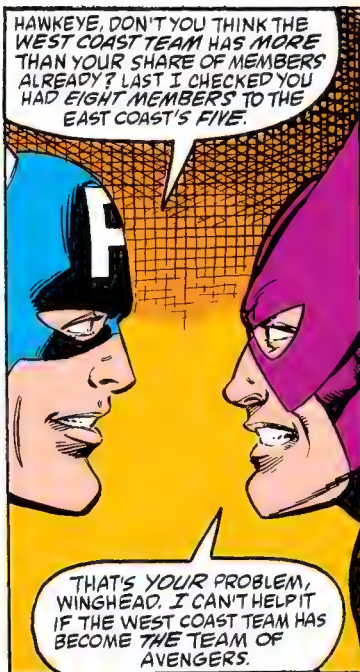
SURE, CAP!

WHAT COULD CAPTAIN AMERICA WANT OF ME?

MARK GRUENWALD  
STORY  
MARK BAGLEY  
PENCILS  
CHRIS IVY  
INKS  
RICK PARKER  
LETTERS  
NEL YOMTOV  
COLORS

\* THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BETWEEN AVENGERS #303 and 304.



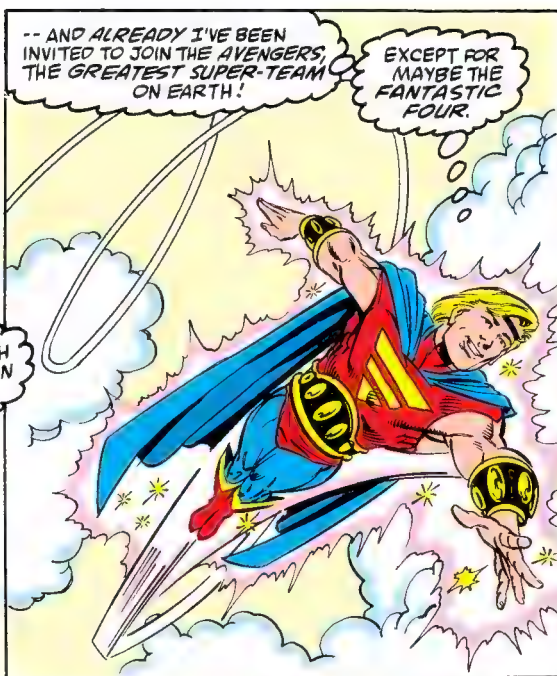






WAAAA-HOOOOO!

BACK ON EARTH  
FOR LESS THAN  
A MONTH--



-- AND ALREADY I'VE BEEN  
INVITED TO JOIN THE AVENGERS,  
THE GREATEST SUPER-TEAM  
ON EARTH!

EXCEPT FOR  
MAYBE THE  
FANTASTIC  
FOUR.



WAIT A MINUTE! I JUST THOUGHT  
OF SOMETHING... WOULDN'T MY  
COMMITMENT TO THE AVENGERS' CONFLICT  
SOMETIMES WITH MY MISSION AS THE  
SO-CALLED PROTECTOR OF THE  
UNIVERSE?

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY SWING  
BEING AN AVENGER AND THE  
PERSONAL BODYGUARD OF  
THE EIGHT-BILLION-YEAR-OLD  
ENTITY WHO CREATED MY  
ENERGY BANDS--

-- TO SAY NOTHING  
OF TRYING TO GET  
A PROFESSION AND  
SOME KIND OF NORMAL  
LIFE GOING...?

GUESS I'LL  
HAVE TO TURN  
CAP'S OFFER  
DOWN.



THAT  
NIGHT...

THAT MATCHES THE DESCRIPTION  
OF AVENGER'S ISLAND! THANK  
GOODNESS I FOUND SOMEONE TO  
TELL ME WHERE IT WAS!

I WONDER WHY THEY MOVED THEIR  
MANSION OUT OF MANHATTAN.  
SECURITY REASONS, I'D IMAGINE.

HOPE IF THERE'S ANY AERIAL  
SECURITY DEVICES CAP REMEMBERS  
TO SHUT THEM DOWN FOR ME.



PERMITTED TO LAND UNPROVOKED, QUASAR IS ESCORTED  
TO THE SPRAWLING MANSION'S LIBRARY, WHERE...

SO MY FIRST QUESTION  
FOR YOU, QUASAR, IS WHY  
HASN'T ANYONE HEARD  
FROM YOU THE LAST FEW  
YEARS?

WE WORKED TOGETHER ON THAT  
CORPORATION CAPER ON THE  
WEST COAST,\* THEN YOU TOOK  
THE SECURITY JOB AT PROJECT  
PEGASUS I RECOMMENDED  
YOU FOR.

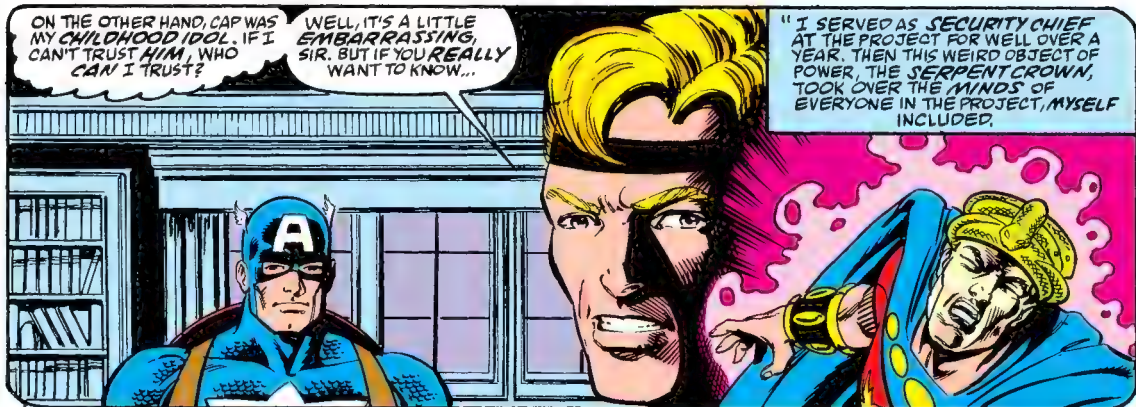
WHAT HAVE  
YOU BEEN UP  
TO SINCE  
THEN.

WELL...

UH-OH. TO ANSWER  
CAP'S QUESTION, I'M  
GOING TO HAVE TO LET  
HIM IN ON MY COSMIC  
MISSION. I'D HOPED  
TO PLAY THAT REAL  
CLOSE TO THE VEST...

\*BACK IN  
CAP # 22B-  
230.



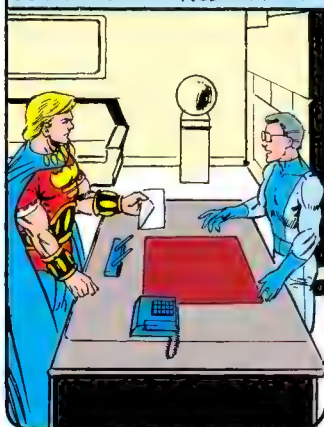


ON THE OTHER HAND, CAP WAS MY CHILDHOOD IDOL. IF I CAN'T TRUST HIM, WHO CAN I TRUST?

WELL, IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING, SIR. BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW...

"I SERVED AS SECURITY CHIEF AT THE PROJECT FOR WELL OVER A YEAR. THEN THIS WEIRD OBJECT OF POWER, THE SERPENT CROWN, TOOK OVER THE MINDS OF EVERYONE IN THE PROJECT, MYSELF INCLUDED."

"IN RETROSPECT, IT SEEMS A BIT IMMATURE, BUT AFTER THE PROJECT WAS RESCUED BY SEVERAL OUTSIDERS, I WAS LEFT FEELING RATHER DEPRESSED ABOUT MY INABILITY TO PROTECT THE PROJECT. SO I TENDERED MY RESIGNATION."



"I MOPED AROUND MY MOM'S HOUSE FOR A WHILE UNTIL MY FATHER--HE'S THE PHYSICIST WHO ORIGINALLY STUDIED THESE ENERGY-BANDS--PROPOSED I FLY TO URANUS, THE PLANET THE BANDS WERE SAID TO COME FROM, IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM."



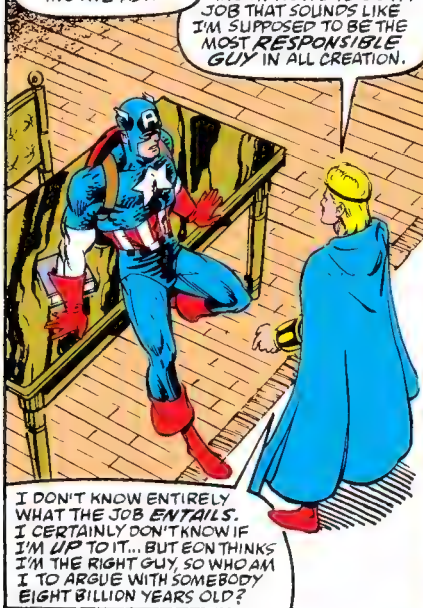
"THE TRIP TOOK A COUPLE OF YEARS."

"THERE I DID LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENERGY-BANDS, FROM THIS EIGHT-BILLION YEAR OLD ALIEN NAMED EON WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MANUFACTURE."



EON SAID THAT THE QUANTUM-BANDS, AS HE CALLS THEM, ARE TO BE WORN BY THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE--AND HE WAS APPOINTING ME AS IT."

YOU CAN SEE WHY I'M EMBARRASSED. I'M RATHER A MODEST GUY WHO SLOUGHED OFF RESPONSIBILITY AT THE PROJECT WHEN I FELT I WASN'T HACKING IT. NOW I'VE GOT A JOB THAT SOUNDS LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST RESPONSIBLE GUY IN ALL CREATION."



I DON'T KNOW ENTIRELY WHAT THE JOB ENTAILS. I CERTAINLY DON'T KNOW IF I'M UP TO IT... BUT EON THINKS I'M THE RIGHT GUY, SO WHO AM I TO ARGUE WITH SOMEBODY EIGHT BILLION YEARS OLD?

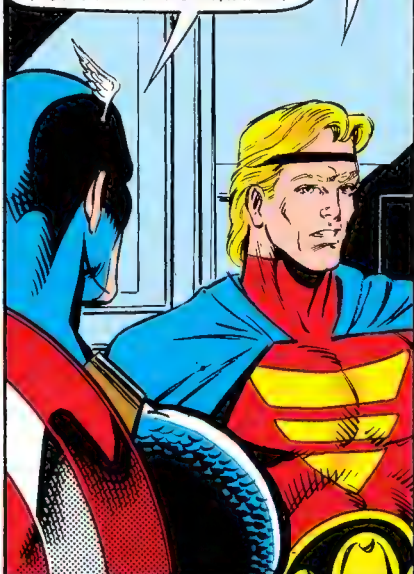
PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, EH? I REMEMBER CAPTAIN MARVEL MENTIONING SOMETHING ABOUT THAT."

HE WASN'T SURE HE WAS UP TO IT EITHER."



THE BOTTOM LINE, SIR, IS THAT AS FLATTERED AS I AM TO BE ASKED TO JOIN THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS SUPER-TEAM ON EARTH, I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO SWING ANY PROTECTOR ROLE, A CIVILIAN LIFE, AND AVENGERS MEMBERSHIP."

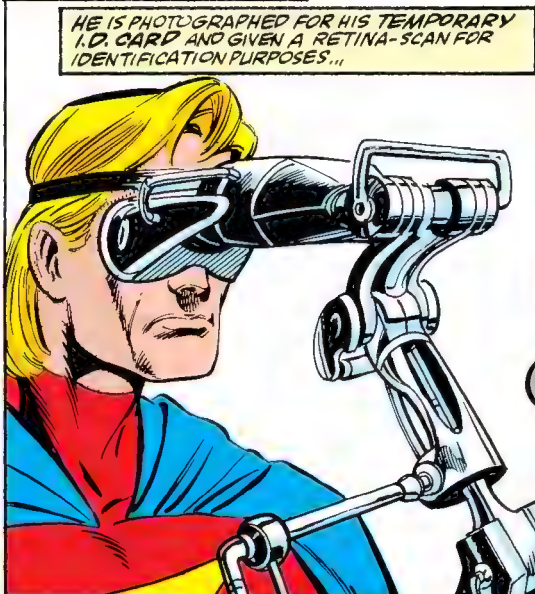
HMMM, WELL, I APPRECIATE YOUR BEING SO FORTHRIGHT..



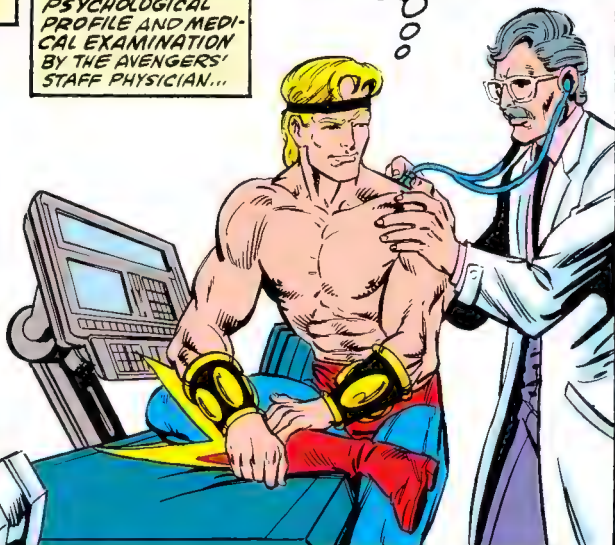




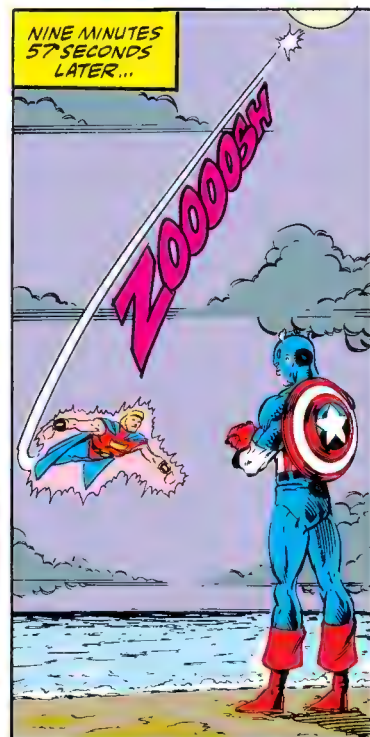
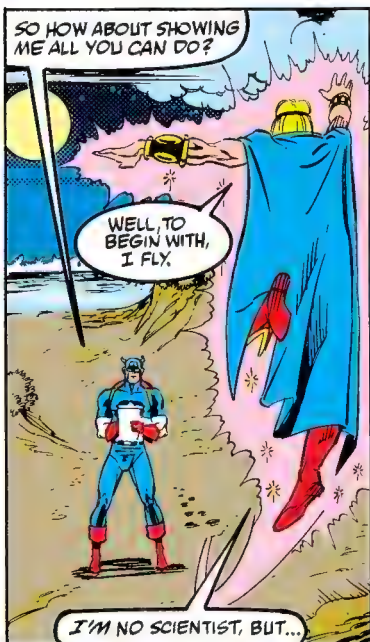
PERSONAL HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRES ARE FILLED OUT, AS WELL AS INSURANCE AND MEDICAL FORMS. HIS BACKGROUND IS CROSS-CHECKED BY COMPUTER WITH PROJECT PEGASUS AND THE SHIELD DATA BANK THE AVENGERS INHERITED...



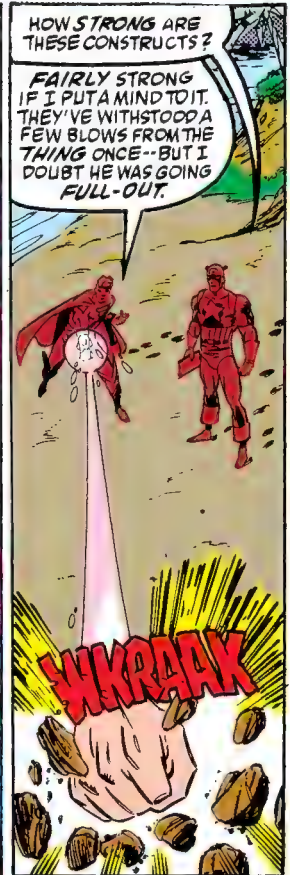
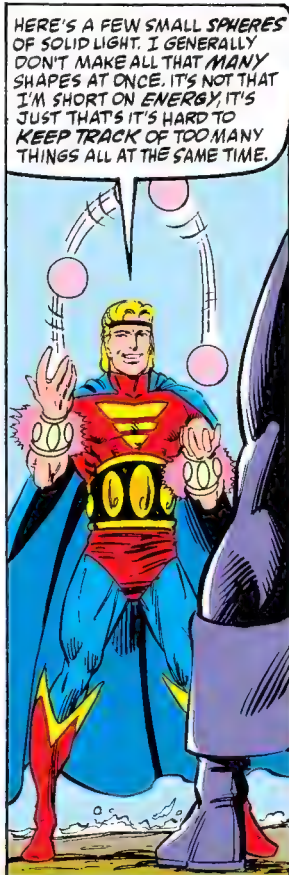
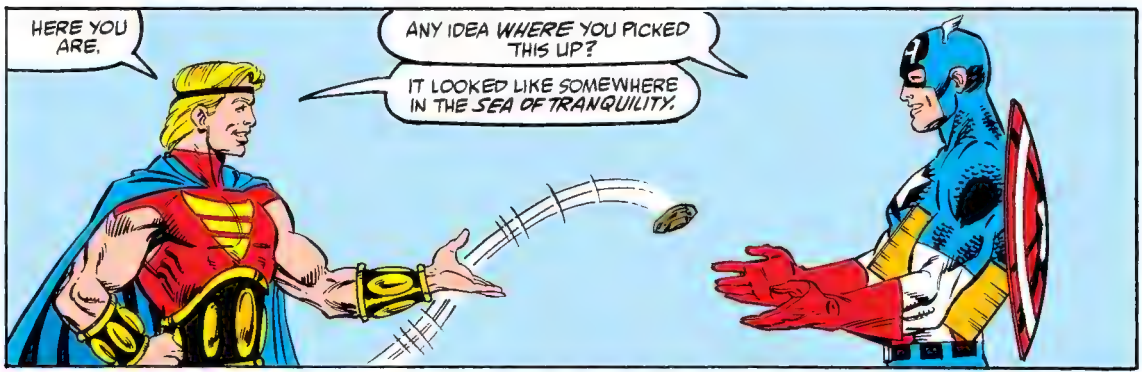
... AND FINALLY, HE IS GIVEN A COMPLETE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION BY THE AVENGERS' STAFF PHYSICIAN...



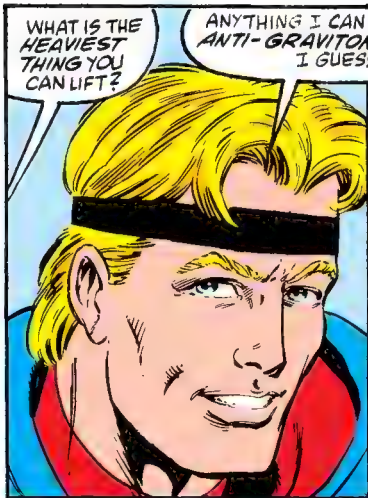












WHAT IS THE HEAVIEST THING YOU CAN LIFT?

ANYTHING I CAN WRAP MY ANTI-GRAVITONS AROUND, I GUESS.



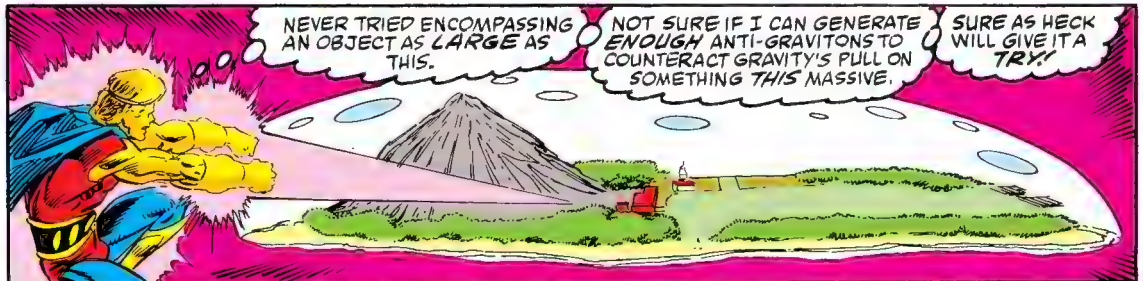
WHAT'S THE HEAVIEST THING YOU HAVE AROUND HERE?

AVENGER'S ISLAND ITSELF.

IT'S ARTIFICIAL--A HUGE BARGE, ACTUALLY, IT WEIGHS SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS AT LEAST.



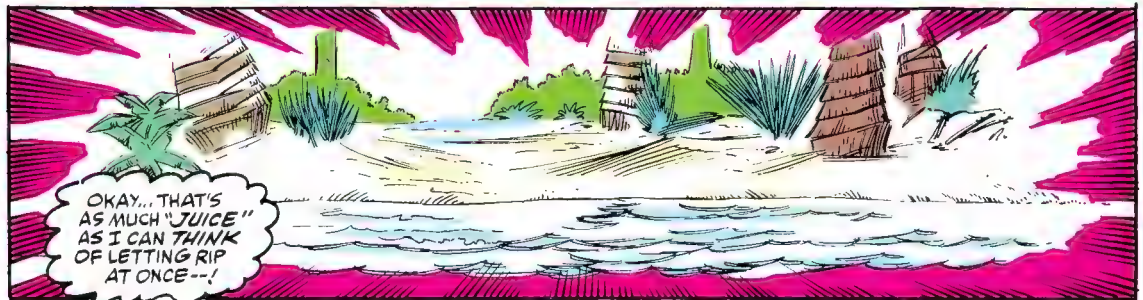
WELL, IT'S NOT ANY OF MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH DOING THE LIFTING. LET ME GIVE IT A SHOT.



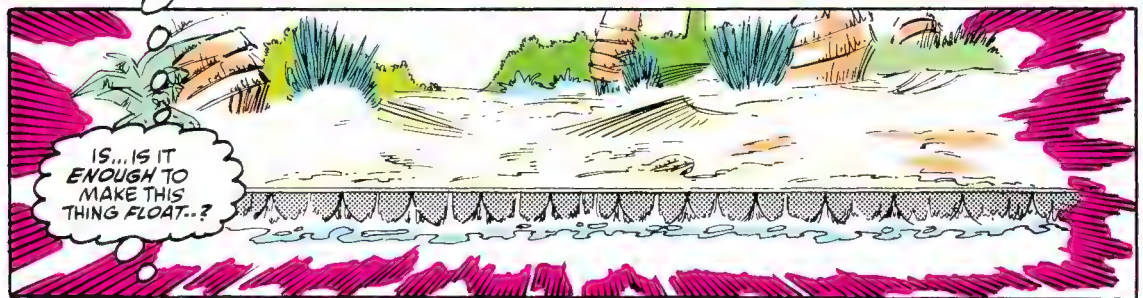
NEVER TRIED ENCOMPASSING AN OBJECT AS LARGE AS THIS.

NOT SURE IF I CAN GENERATE ENOUGH ANTI-GRAVITONS TO COUNTERACT GRAVITY'S PULL ON SOMETHING THIS MASSIVE.

SURE AS HECK WILL GIVE IT A TRY!



OKAY... THAT'S AS MUCH "JUICE" AS I CAN THINK OF LETTING RIP AT ONCE--!

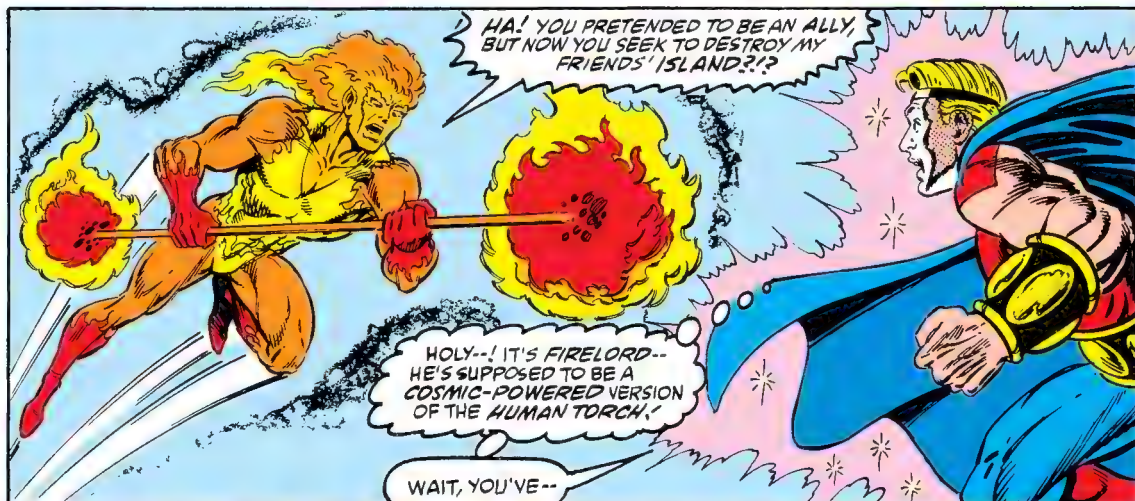
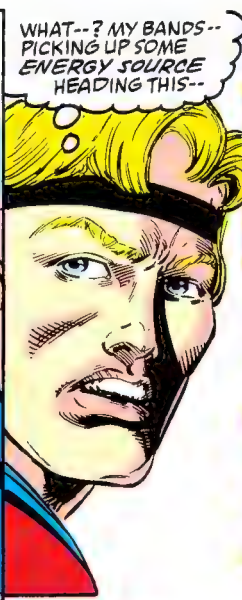
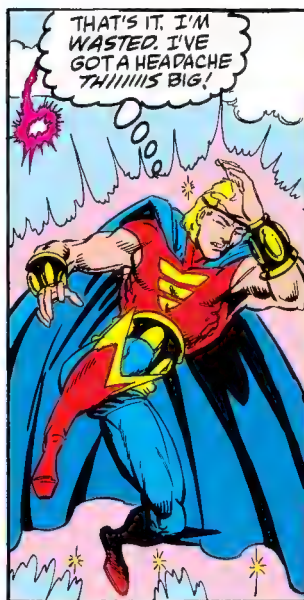


IS... IS IT ENOUGH TO MAKE THIS THING FLOAT..?



IT'S RISING-- A FEW INCHES-- OUT OF THE WATER--!







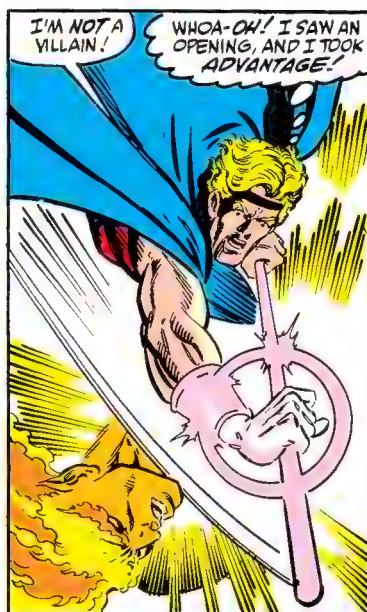


GOOD LORD!  
THAT MUST BE  
FIRELORD  
UP THERE!  
WHY HAS HE  
ATTACKED  
QUASAR?



WHELP, I KNOW NOT HOW YOU  
MANAGED TO DISSIPATE MY  
COSMIC FLAME-- BUT YOU  
SHALL NOT AVOID MY FIRE-  
STAFF!

HEY,  
COOL IT,  
FIRELORD!



I'M NOT A  
VILLAIN!

WHOA-OH! I SAW AN  
OPENING, AND I TOOK  
ADVANTAGE!



AM I NUTS? THIS GUY'S A  
HERALD OF GALACTUS, FOR  
CRYING OUT LOUD!

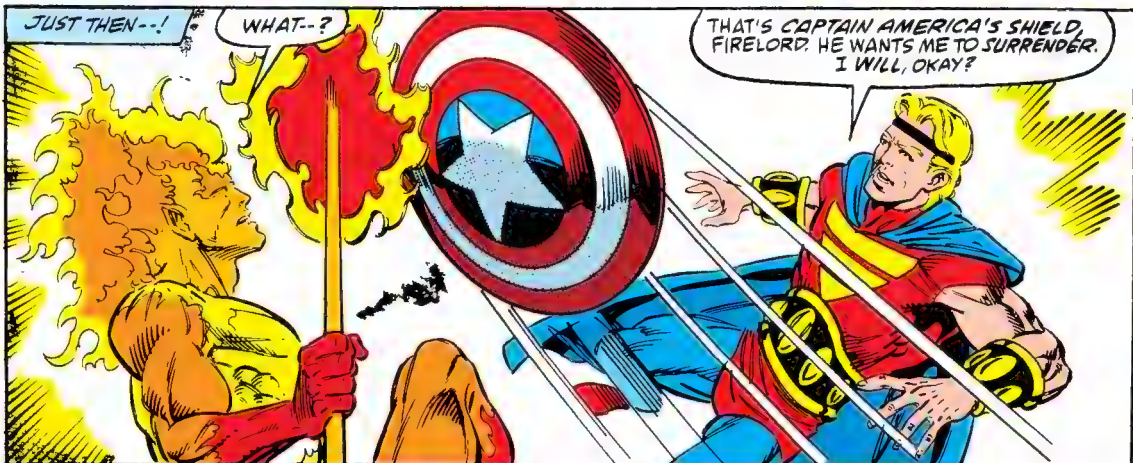
AAH! NEARLY  
INCINERATED  
MY HEAD!



NO SENSE TRYING TO PROTEST MY INNOCENCE  
NOW. I'VE GOT TO KEEP THIS GUY OUT OF MY  
FACE UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT SOME WAY  
OUT OF THIS!

WHOOSH

I KNOW, I'LL TRY  
SIPHONING MORE  
OF HIS ENERGY!



JUST THEN--!

WHAT--?

THAT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD,  
FIRELORD. HE WANTS ME TO SURRENDER.  
I WILL, OKAY?





SIR, YOU'VE GOT TO TELL THIS GUY I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY-- QUICK!

HE THINKS I WAS ATTACKING THE ISLAND



AT EASE, FIRELORD. I WAS SIMPLY TESTING YOUNG QUASAR HERE.

A...TEST? IT APPEARS I REACTED HASTILY.

AH, WELL, NO HARM DONE.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, FIRELORD, YOU ACTUALLY HELPED BY LETTING ME SEE A LITTLE OF QUASAR'S FIGHTING SKILLS.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...



AND, INSIDE, THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS...

SORRY FOR THE LITTLE UNSCHEDULED COMBAT PRACTICE OUT THERE. FIRELORD HAS ALWAYS BEEN AS HOT-TEMPERED AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT.

AT ANY RATE, I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, AND IT CONFIRMS WHAT I ALREADY EXPECTED--

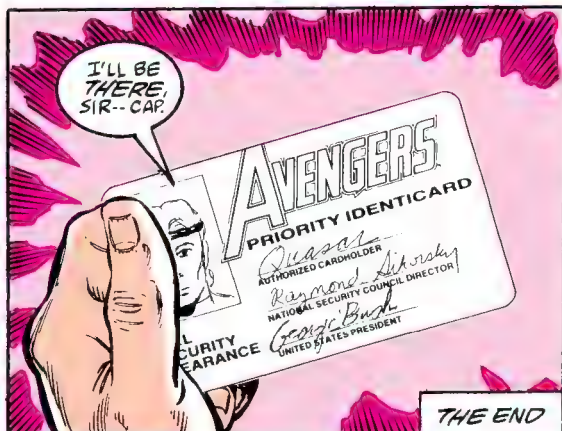
-- YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ONE HECK OF AN AVENGER.

THANK YOU, SIR. COMING FROM YOU THAT MEANS A LOT.

HERE.



ALL YOUR FORMS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED AND YOUR REFERENCES CHECKED. YOU ARE HEREBY A PROVISIONAL AVENGER. UNLESS AN EMERGENCY CROPS UP BEFORE THEN, I'LL SEE YOU NEXT SATURDAY AT 2-- OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

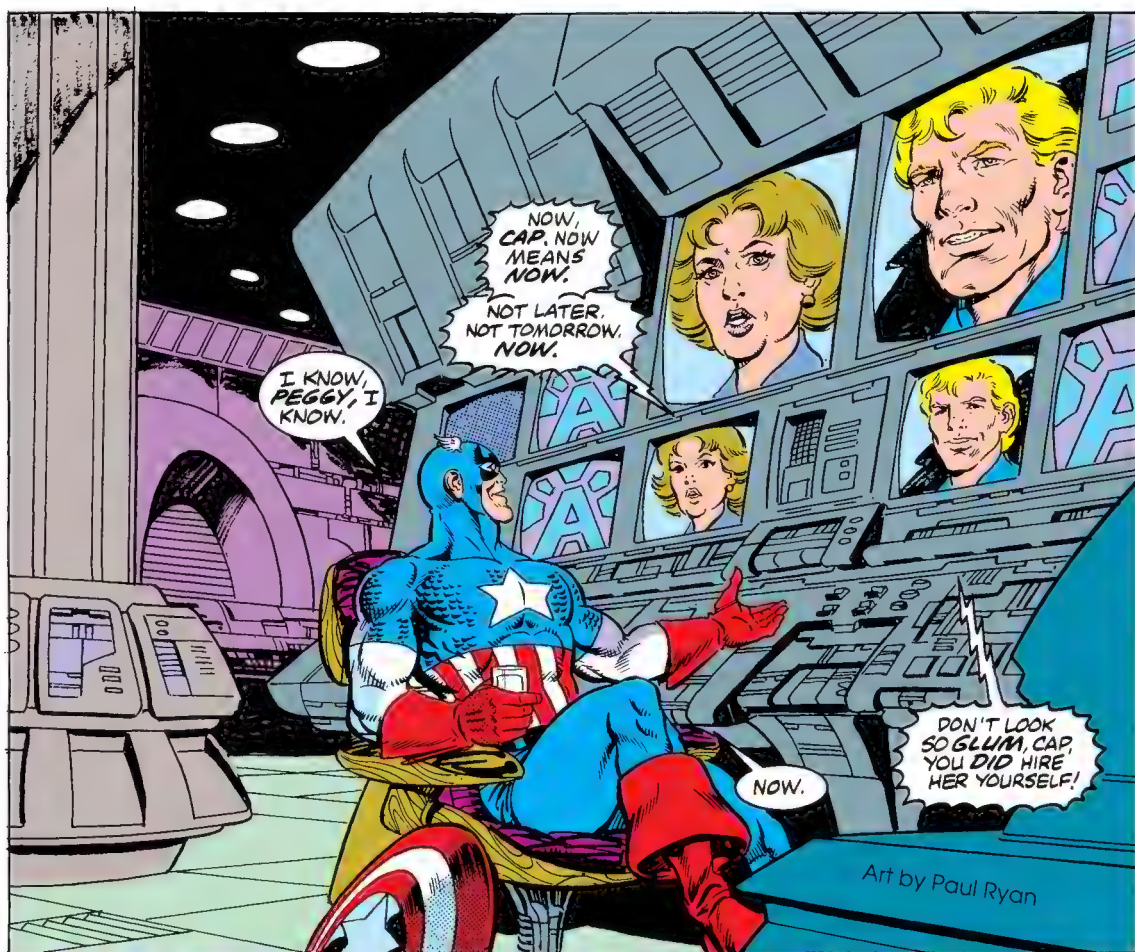


I'LL BE THERE, SIR-- CAP.

**AVENGERS**  
PRIORITY IDENTICARD  
Quasar  
AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER  
Raymond S. Sarsky  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DIRECTOR  
George Bush  
SECURITY CLEARANCE  
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

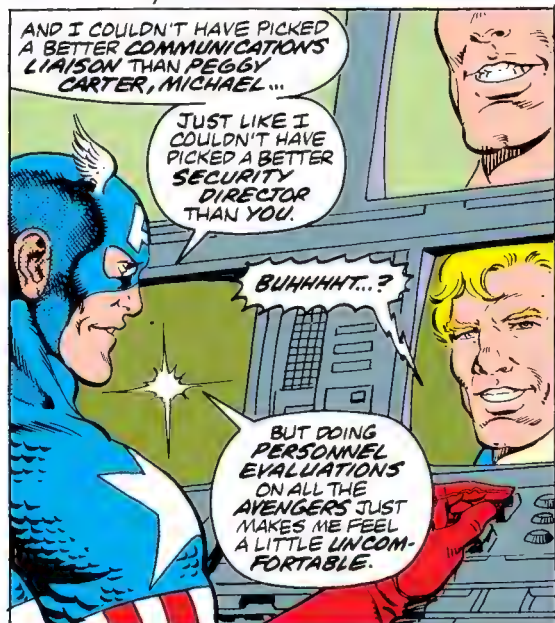
THE END





## CAP'S AVENGERABILITY ANALYSIS

Written by Fabian Nicieza Lettered by Ken Lopez Colored by Mike Rockwitz





Might as well begin at the beginning. **THOR** -- the *Norse God of Thunder* and one of the **founding members** of the team. His physical strength is **unparalleled** among all Avengers.

He is an **expert** combatant, having been trained for **hundreds** of years in the arts of war. His understanding of **tactics** and **strategies** encompasses the teachings of cultures over several **centuries**. Thor has shown himself to be proficient as a **swordsman** and in the use of his enchanted *Uru* hammer, **Mjolnir**.



With this enchanted hammer (and I've held Mjolnir -- it is **magnificent**), Thor can call up **thunderstorms** and **lightning flashes** both in an offensive and defensive capacity.

Thor's only **weakness** (if it can even be considered that) is his lack of understanding and lack of interest in Terran **mechanical** constructs and instruments such as the Avengers **Quinjets** or the computer system.

Overall, Thor rates as one of the most **reliable** and **important** members of the Avengers organization.

Would that we had a **walking weapon** like **IRON MAN** fighting for us during *World War II* -- the lives that could have been saved...

Also a **founding member**, Iron Man wields the most sophisticated piece of **hardware** on the planet. His armor is the **epitome** of the fighting ideal.

The components of the armor, including **repulsor rays** and **pulsar force bursts** serve as excellent long-range weapons. For closed quarter combat, a variety of incapacitating armaments can be used, including **low-voltage electrical fields**.

As a **hand-to-hand combatant**, **Shell-head** has improved his proficiency. Though **not** an expert, he can hold his own until he is able to better implement his armor's capabilities.



Art by Kevin Maguire and Christopher Ivy

Though occasionally **stubborn** and **strong-willed**, Iron Man is a reliable teammate and functions smoothly in a group. His skills and abilities strongly complement those of his fellow Avengers.



**HANK PYM** is one the most difficult Avengers member to pin down, both in terms of **personality** and **power**, because of the problems he's endured over the years.

Hank has taken on a number of **costumed personas**, never feeling quite comfortable in any of them. But quite recently, Hank decided to continue as an adventurer **without** the use of a "heroic" identity.

Operating as a **scientific troubleshooter**, Hank brings a necessary dimension to the team's functions.

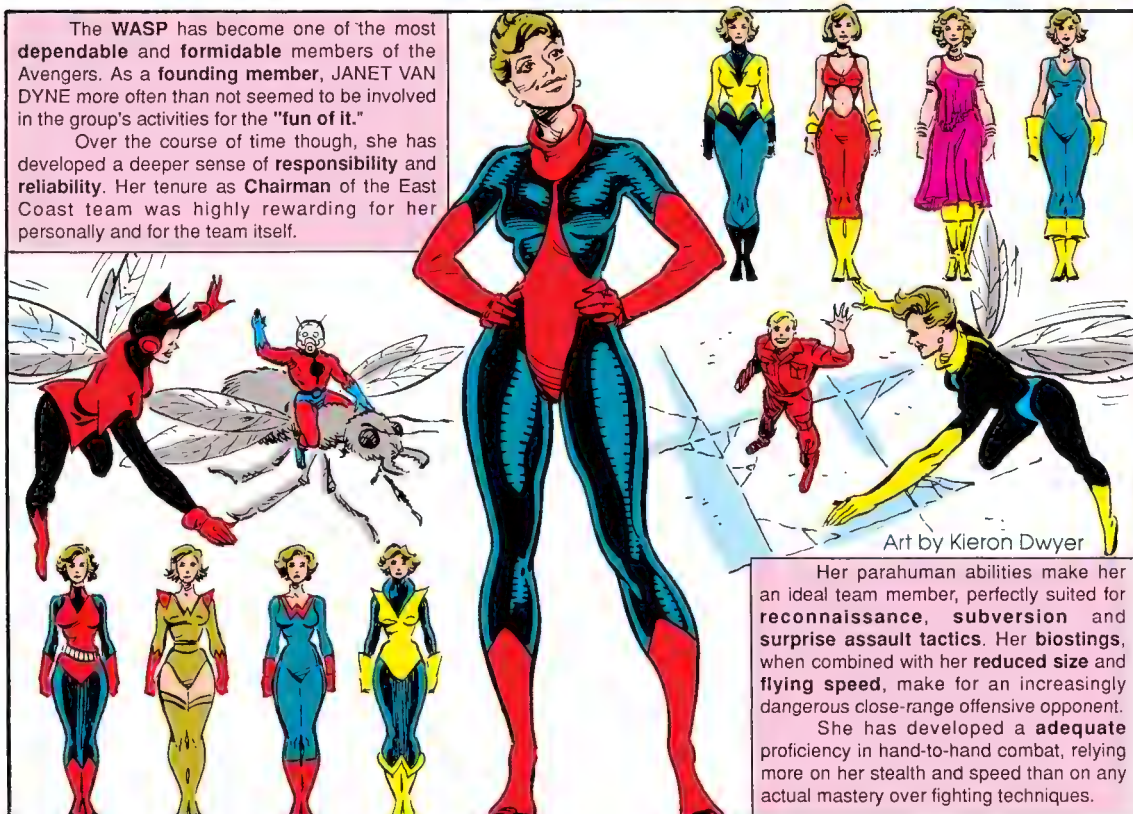
His hand-to-hand abilities are rather **modest**, but that form of activity is rarely required from him..

Pym's ability to **shrink** and **regrow** objects has proven to be an extremely efficient method of both defensive and offensive strategic engagement.



The **WASP** has become one of the most **dependable** and **formidable** members of the Avengers. As a **founding member**, **JANET VAN DYNE** more often than not seemed to be involved in the group's activities for the "**fun of it.**"

Over the course of time though, she has developed a deeper sense of **responsibility** and **reliability**. Her tenure as **Chairman** of the East Coast team was highly rewarding for her personally and for the team itself.



Her parahuman abilities make her an ideal team member, perfectly suited for **reconnaissance**, **subversion** and **surprise assault** tactics. Her **biostings**, when combined with her **reduced size** and **flying speed**, make for an increasingly dangerous close-range offensive opponent.

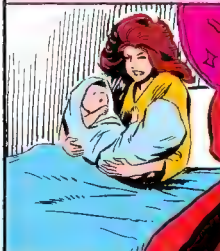
She has developed a **adequate** proficiency in hand-to-hand combat, relying more on her stealth and speed than on any actual mastery over fighting techniques.





The **SCARLET WITCH** has undergone many changes during her long tenure as an Avenger. Her erratic mutant **probability-altering abilities** have always made her one of the **less** dependable combat members.

There was a time when the use of her powers would **radically** drain her, leaving her exhausted during battle.



Over time, Wanda has **greatly** increased her proficiency in the use of her mutant powers, though their very nature causes them to be **slightly...** unpredictable in terms of strategic planning.

Her hand-to-hand combat abilities have always been **lacking**. Wanda has never been too interested in those arts

Her **mutant** powers and her confidence have proven to be more than sufficient compensation.

Art by  
Lee Weeks

The synthezoid construct **VISION** has become one of the most consistently intriguing roster members in the team's history.



His abilities have made him an esteemed **ally** and dangerous foe. With the ability to become **intangible**, the Vision makes for an excellent **advance reconnaissance scout**. His ability to turn **diamond-hard** makes him one of our **strongest** members.



If there is a **weakness** in the Vision, it is an over-reliance on **logic** and **systems analysis**. Since his reprogramming, he has once again become an **unemotional "walking computer,"** for want of a better term.

If he more smoothly combined his **rational** tendencies with a dose of **emotion**, he would make for the optimum Avenger.

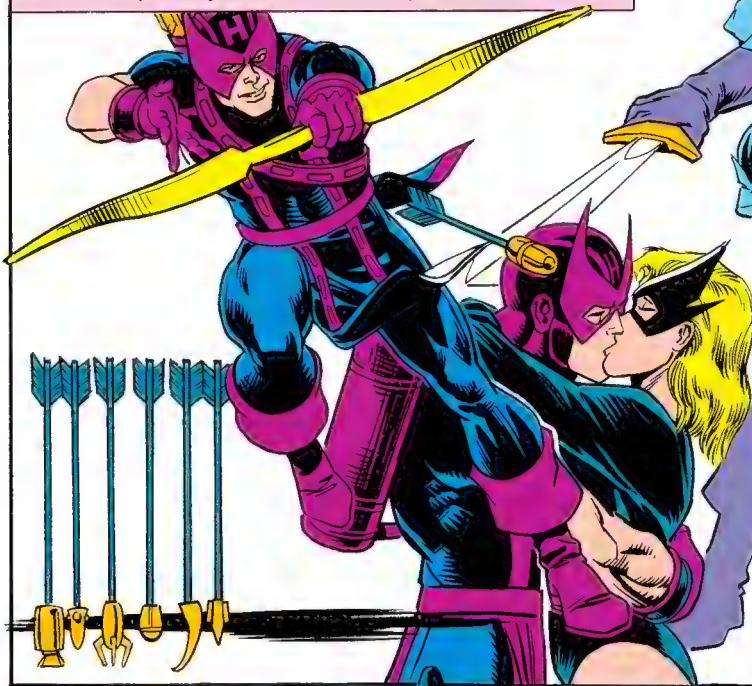


**HAWKEYE.** Where to begin with Clint Barton? If **any** Avenger epitomizes the idea of the **self-made man** it is the Avenging Archer.

Hawkeye's **bowmanship** with his custom-made **arsenal** of arrows has made him into one of the **least** respected but **most** skillful members of the team.

The lack of respect comes from his opponents, who generally find themselves captured by Clint's combination of **precision** and **derision**.

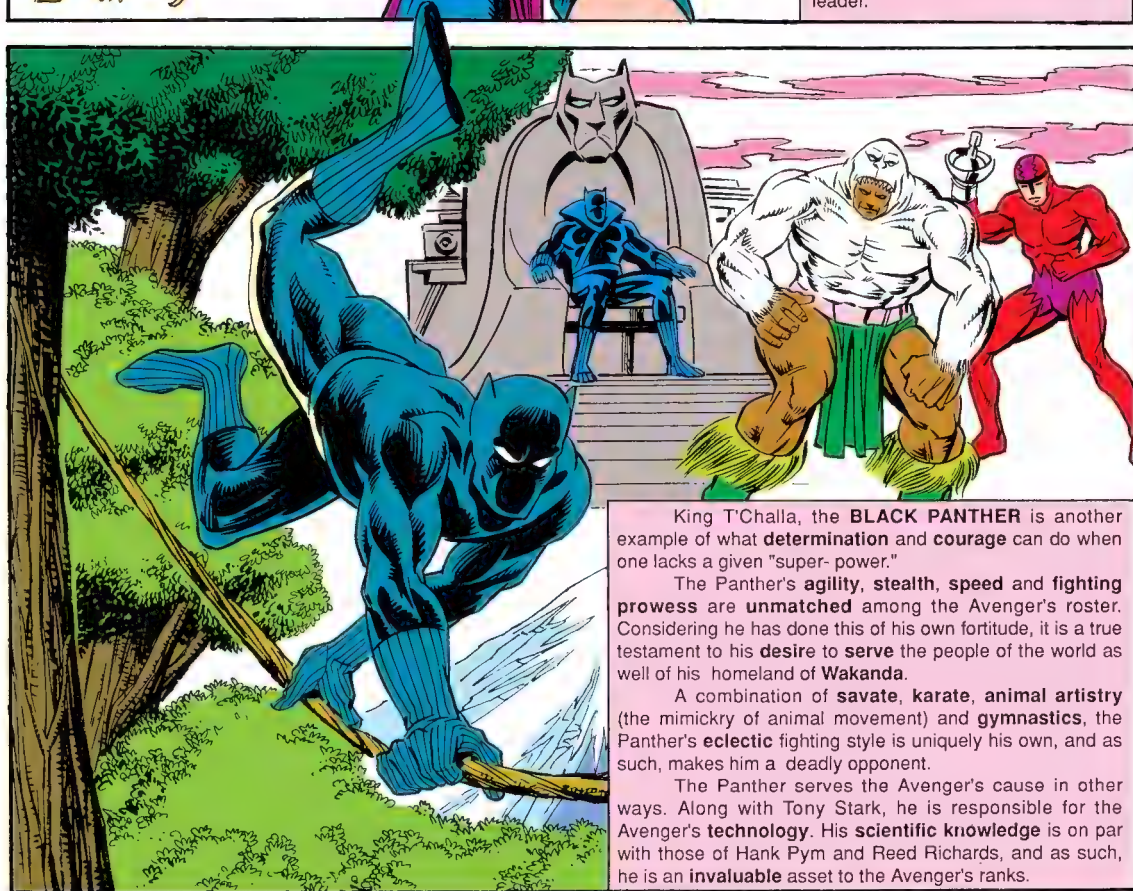
Art by Mark D. Bright and Donald C. Hudson



Containing a wide array of weaponry, including arrows for **assault** (explosives, sonics, acid and tear gas arrows) as well as for **subterfuge** (smoke bomb, cable and net arrows), Hawkeye's quiver makes this Avenger as much a **walking weapon** as Iron Man.

Hawkeye's skill is **not** limited to his mastery of archery. Clint has developed into an **excellent** hand-to-hand combat and his **upper body strength** is extraordinary.

As **Chairman** of our West Coast branch, Hawkeye proved himself an **adroit** and **capable**, though occasionally **reckless** field leader.



King T'Challa, the **BLACK PANTHER** is another example of what **determination** and **courage** can do when one lacks a given "super-power."

The Panther's **agility**, **stealth**, **speed** and **fighting prowess** are **unmatched** among the Avenger's roster. Considering he has done this of his own fortitude, it is a true testament to his **desire to serve** the people of the world as well of his homeland of **Wakanda**.

A combination of **savate**, **karate**, **animal artistry** (the mimicry of animal movement) and **gymnastics**, the Panther's **eclectic** fighting style is uniquely his own, and as such, makes him a **deadly** opponent.

The Panther serves the Avenger's cause in other ways. Along with Tony Stark, he is responsible for the Avenger's **technology**. His **scientific knowledge** is on par with those of Hank Pym and Reed Richards, and as such, he is an **invaluable** asset to the Avenger's ranks.



The **SHE-HULK** has developed into one of the most **dependable** and **enthusiastic** Avengers. Her **super-strength** is rivalled only by Thor and Wonder Man and is a boon to any given situation.

Her fighting style is a sort of "**barroom brawling**," technique, which, though not tactically **precise**, has served her very well. She works very smoothly within the team structure



Her only **drawback** from a strategic standpoint is her less-than-inconspicuous **height** and **skin tone**. Needless to say, the She-Hulk is not particularly useful on a **covert mission**.

The team also benefits from Jennifer Walters' legal contacts. Her close **ties** to the New York City **District Attorney's office** helps in processing the Avengers' duties in an **administrative** capacity.

Simon Williams, **WONDER MAN**, is also a valuable addition in terms of **strength** and adds many of the same physical contributions to the West Coast branch as She-Hulk does to the East Coast division.

The difference is really in terms of **personality** when it comes to drawing assignments. She-Hulk fits more smoothly into a group unit and she more readily combines with the talents and abilities of the Avengers around her.

Art by Kieron Dwyer



Simon's **flight** capabilities via his **jet-belt** coupled with his **speed** and **strength** make him the ideal for "**blitzkrieg-assault**" situations, moreso than any other Avenger.

Simon's contacts in the **entertainment industry** are beneficial in a **superficial** sort of way, but this should not be lightly regarded. More often than not, **image** is very important for the successful accomplishment of the Avenger's appointed tasks.

Wonder Man, is more of a "**do-it-yourself**" type, in many ways emulating Iron Man's occasional **stubbornness**.

In no way does this **diminish** Simon's contributions, it merely makes him **less applicable** to an assignment that calls for **mission cohesiveness**.



**TIGRA** has always been a **difficult** Avenger to get a proper handle on.

Tigra, although slightly **erratic**, has been a trustworthy member of the team. Mixing an **animal-like ferocity**, Tigra's **agility** and **strength** is astounding.

Her enhanced senses make her a perfect **tracker** and suited to any assignments requiring subterfuge, stealth, and quickness. Though not the perfect Avenger, Tigra has developed into a **sturdy** member of the team.

The **BLACK KNIGHT** has led a **checkered** and **troubled** career as an Avenger. Indeed, his troubles persist even now as he has become **physically transformed** by the curse on his **ebony blade** into a **metal-like comatose** state.

Art by Paul Ryan

Dane Whitman has been one of the most **skilled**, **conscientious** members of the Avenger's roster. His **weaponry skill**, honed through years of hard-edged battle is tempered by his **compassion**.

His teamwork is excellent, indeed, he seems to **prefer** a group fighting function in contrast to a solo style.

His **military tactical sense** is second-to-none on the team and his **mechanical** and **scientific** expertise have proven invaluable to the team.

Hopefully, we will soon find a **cure** for Dane's illness.





My close friend, Sam Wilson -- the **FALCON** -- was an active Avenger for a very short time.

The Falcon's combat skills are good, though he is out-of-practice.

He is best-suited to assignments in urban areas involving interdiction, reconnaissance and stealth.

Sam was -- succinctly put -- not very **comfortable** or **successful** as an Avenger.

The Falcon's **heart** lies with his role as **protector** of the **Harlem** streets and through his **social work**.

**QUASAR** is the newest member of the Avengers and has the potential to become one of our **brightest** (no pun intended, I'm getting tired). His **light-based, space-spawned** powers are **unique** and conducive to successful group interaction.



He is still rather **inexperienced** and **tentative**, but the combination of his **SHIELD** training, his desire and the help of his more **seasoned** teammates, Wendell Vaughn will be a fine addition to the team.



EH.

WHY AM I SO RELIABLE?

MOONDRAGON...

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

Art by Paul Ryan

ONLY HALF WAY DONE.

HOW MAD WOULD MICHAEL GET IF I SNUCK OFF FOR A QUICK WORKOUT?



ONLY A SHORT NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, A NEW POLITICIAN APPEARED SEEMINGLY FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, A WARMONGERING DEMAGOGUE WHOSE LIKE HAD NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THE TIME OF ADOLF HITLER--

--AND THIS MAN WAS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!

FOR TOO LONG THIS GREAT COUNTRY HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK ON ALL SIDES! TERRORIST NATIONS TAKE OUR CITIZENS PRISONER! OUR SO-CALLED ALLIES BUY UP OUR BUSINESSES! AND THE COMMUNISTS TALK PEACE WHILE BUILDING UP THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS, PREPARING FOR WAR!

I SAY TO YOU THAT IT IS TIME THAT WE STOP RUNNING SCARED AND SHOW THE WORLD THAT AMERICA IS NUMBER ONE-- BY FORCE!

I AM THE WATCHER, AND HE IS PAUL DESTINE--

--WHOM YOU MIGHT CALL A POLITICAL STALKING HORSE FOR THE SERPENT DEMON SET!

# THE SAGA OF THE SERPENT CROWN

## MANIFEST DESTINY

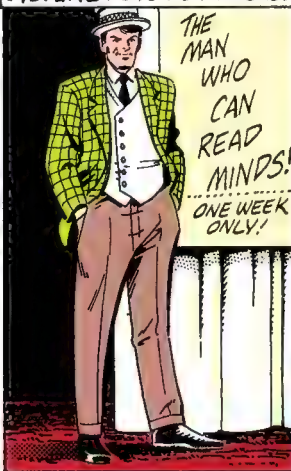
CHAPTER 8

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EDITOR IN CHIEF  
BASED ON STORIES BY  
ROY THOMAS,  
JOHN BUSSEMA! AND  
GENE COLAN.



JUST AFTER WORLD WAR I, YOUNG PAUL DESTINE WAS A SMALL TIME CARNIVAL MENTALIST TRAVELING THROUGH AMERICA. BUT UNLIKE OTHERS IN HIS PROFESSION, DESTINE WAS GIFTED WITH ACTUAL PSYCHIC POWERS.



THE MAN WHO CAN READ MINDS! ...ONE WEEK ONLY!

SEEKING A MEANS TO INCREASE HIS POWERS, DESTINE DID RESEARCH ON PSYCHIC PHENOMENA--

--AND LEARNED ABOUT THE ANCIENTS, A LEGENDARY CIVILIZATION OF TELEPATHS.

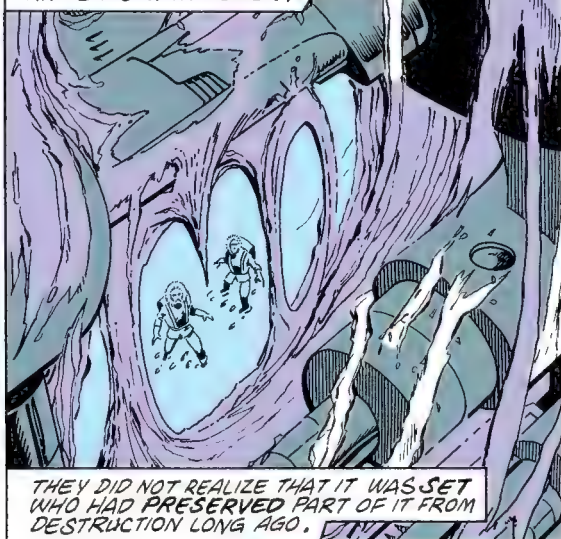


DETERMINE TO FIND THE NOW-DEAD ANCIENTS, DESTINE EMBARKED ON THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION HEADED BY CAPTAIN LEONARD MCKENZIE, THE FUTURE FATHER OF PRINCE NAMOR OF ATLANTIS, THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER.



DESTINE AND MCKENZIE DISCOVERED A CAVE JUST OFF THE ANTARCTIC COAST--

--AND INSIDE THEY FOUND THE GREAT DYNAMO THAT HAD PROVIDED THE ANCIENTS WITH POWER.



THEY DID NOT REALIZE THAT IT WAS SET WHO HAD PRESERVED PART OF IT FROM DESTRUCTION LONG AGO.

WHEN DESTINE ACTIVATED THE DYNAMO, HE TRIGGERED AN AVALANCHE WITHIN THE CAVE!



MCKENZIE ESCAPED THE CAVE, BUT DESTINE WAS TRAPPED INSIDE!

BUT THE POWER OF SET SAVED DESTINE, FOR THE DEMON HAD PLANS FOR HIM.



FOR THERE INSIDE THE CAVE LAY THE DISGUISED SERPENT CROWN, THE RECEPTACLE OF SET'S MYSTIC MIGHT--

--WHICH PAUL DESTINE RENAMED THE HELMET OF POWER!



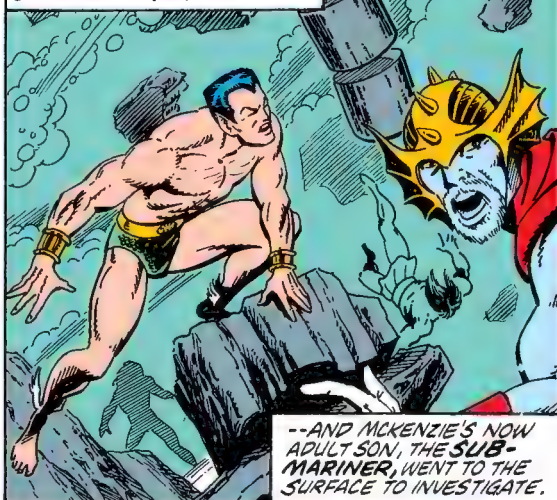
DESTINY LAY IN **SUSPENDED ANIMATION** FOR DECADES AS THE HELMET VASTLY INCREASED HIS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL MIGHT.

AND WHEN HE EMERGED, HE RENAMED HIMSELF **DESTINY**.



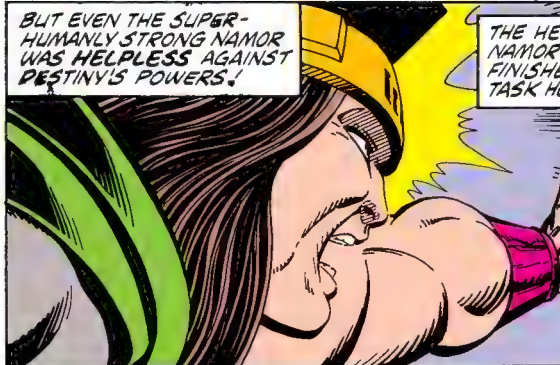
SET HAD LEARNED THAT THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS, ON WHOM HE HAD VOWED REVENGE, NOW LIVED BENEATH THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN.

DESTINY USED THE HELMET'S IMMENSE MIGHT TO ROCK THE ATLANTIAN CITY WITH UNDER-SEA EARTHQUAKES--

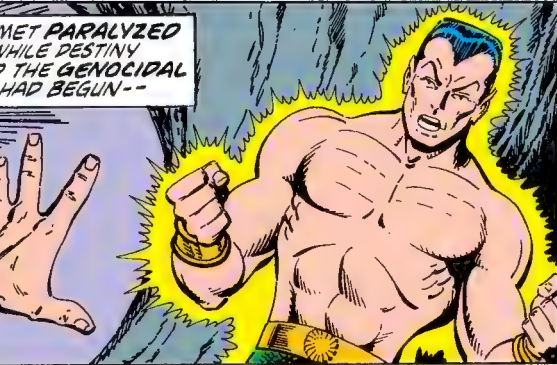


--AND MCKENZIE'S NOW ADULT SON, THE **SUB-MARINER**, WENT TO THE SURFACE TO INVESTIGATE.

BUT EVEN THE SUPER-HUMANLY STRONG NAMOR WAS HELPLESS AGAINST DESTINY'S POWERS!

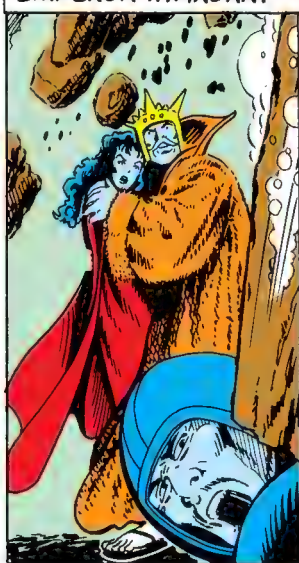


THE HELMET PARALYZED NAMOR WHILE DESTINY FINISHED THE GENOCIDAL TASK HE HAD BEGUN--



--CREATING THE QUAKES THAT DOOMED THE CITY BELOW--

--AND KILLED NAMOR'S OWN MOTHER, PRINCESS FEN, AND HIS GRANDFATHER, THE EMPEROR THAKORR!

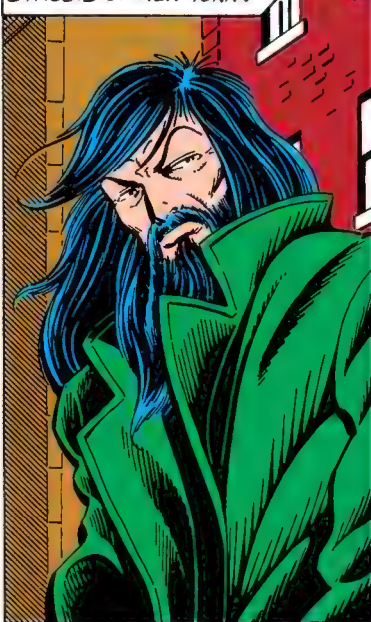


MOST OF THE ATLANTEANS SURVIVED, ONLY TO WANDER THE SEAS AS NOMADS FOR DECADES!



AS FOR NAMOR, DESTINY COMPELLED HIM TO FLY TO NEW YORK CITY, WIPING OUT HIS MEMORY AND PULLING HIS MIND--

--AND THIS NAMOR WASTED YEARS LIVING AS ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE WANDERING THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.



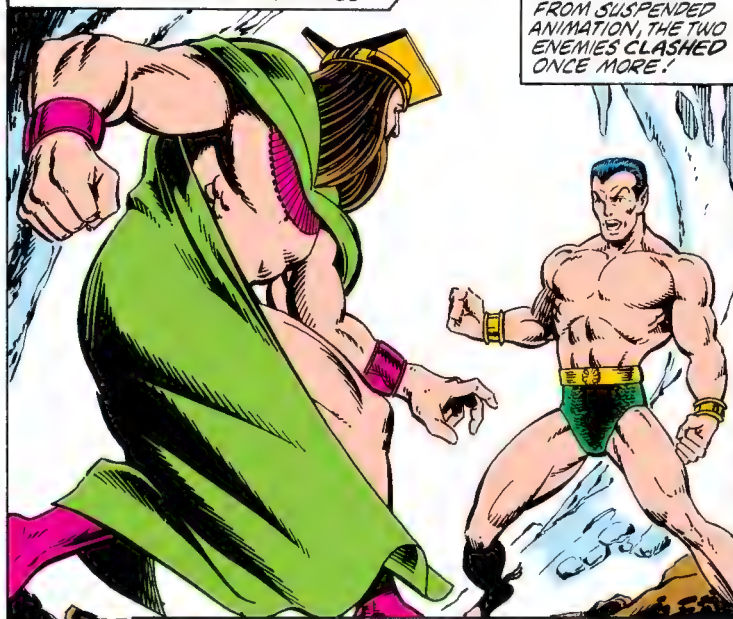


EVENTUALLY, NAMOR REGAINED HIS MEMORY AND HIS FULL MENTAL FACULTIES--

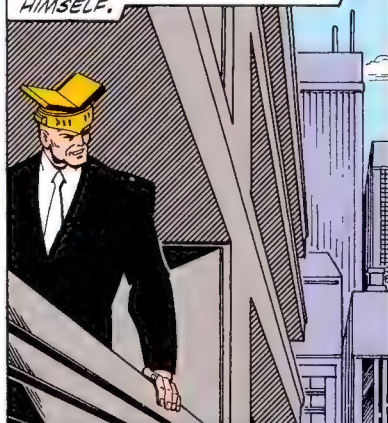
AND WHEN DESTINY AGAIN EMERGED FROM SUSPENDED ANIMATION, THE TWO ENEMIES CLASHED ONCE MORE!

THROUGH DESTINE'S EYES SET GAZED HUNGRILY AT THE CIVILIZATION THE HUMAN RACE HAD BUILT.

BUT DESTINE CARED LITTLE FOR HIS DEMONIC MASTER. DESTINE SOUGHT TO RULE THIS PLANET HIMSELF.



ONCE AGAIN DESTINE EASILY DEFEATED THE ATLANTEAN, BUT THIS TIME IT WAS DESTINE WHO LEFT FOR NEW YORK!



AND SO DESTINE LAUNCHED HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, USING THE HELMET'S POWER TO PLACE HIS AUDIENCES UNDER HIS CONTROL.

AND NOW DESTINE WAS ON THE EVE OF VICTORY. TONIGHT HE WOULD ADDRESS MILLIONS OF VIEWERS ON LIVE NETWORK TELEVISION--

--ALL OF THEM CURIOUS TO SEE THIS NOTORIOUS WAR-MONGER FOR THEMSELVES.

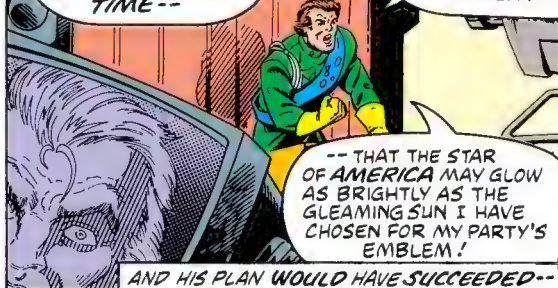
THUS DESTINE BEGAN HIS FATEFUL SPEECH--

--AND, AS I FACE THE NATION TONIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME--

--I ASK YOU TO ELECT ME YOUR NEXT PRESIDENT--



AND DESTINE INTENDED TO USE THE POWER OF THE HELMET HE HAD HIDDEN IN THE STUDIO TO REACH THROUGH THEIR TELEVISION SETS AND ENSNARE THE MINDS OF EVERY ONE OF THEM.



-- THAT THE STAR OF AMERICA MAY GLOW AS BRIGHTLY AS THE GLEAMING SUN I HAVE CHOSEN FOR MY PARTY'S EMBLEM!

AND HIS PLAN WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED--

--HAD NOT A FIGURE OF VENGEANCE APPEARED AT THAT VERY MOMENT!

HOLD, YOU WHO HAVE NAMED YOURSELF DESTINY! TURN--AND FACE THE VENGEANCE OF HIM YOU HAVE MOST WRONGED!



FILLED WITH RAGE AT THE SIGHT OF HIS NEMESIS, DESTINE FORGOT THE WATCHING CAMERAS--

--AND ATTACKED!

--IT IS TOO LATE, NAMOR--

--TOO LATE FOR YOU TO STOP ME!

TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING--

--EXCEPT DIE!



DESTINE DREW TREMENDOUS STRENGTH FROM THE NEARBY HELMET--



BUT HE WAS STILL NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHT OF THE SUB-MARINER, UNTIL--

YOU'RE THROUGH NOW, FISH-MAN!

YOU JUST HURLED ME TO WHERE MY HELMET WAS LYING--

--AND NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHY THEY CALL IT THE HELMET OF POWER!

THE HELMET GRANTED DESTINE ENOUGH **STRENGTH** TO KNOCK NAMOR THROUGH THE CEILING WITH ONE PUNCH!

THEN, ON THE ROOF, DESTINE BOMBARDED THE SUB-MARINER WITH MENTAL ENERGY, SEARING HIM WITH INCREDIBLE PAIN UNTIL HE COLLAPSED UNCONSCIOUS!

BUT DESTINE WAS NOT YET FINISHED WITH HIS FOE...

...HE INTENDED TO GIVE NAMOR A SPECTACULAR DEMISE!

PERHAPS A MERE FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT WOULD NOT BE TRULY FATAL TO SUCH AS HE!

BUT WHEN HURLED BY MY MATCHLESS STRENGTH--

--NOTHING COULD SURVIVE!

THE SUB-MARINER'S BODY PLUMMETED TO THE STREET BELOW, HITTING WITH SHATTERING IMPACT!

BUT THEN, AFTER LONG MOMENTS, NAMOR STAGGERED TO HIS FEET AND STOOD DEFIANT!

DESTINE WATCHED IN DISBELIEF AS THE MAN HE HAD TRIED TO DESTROY TWICE BEFORE ROSE YET AGAIN TO CHALLENGE HIM--

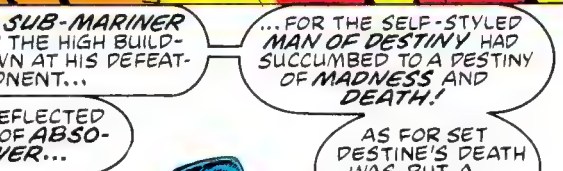
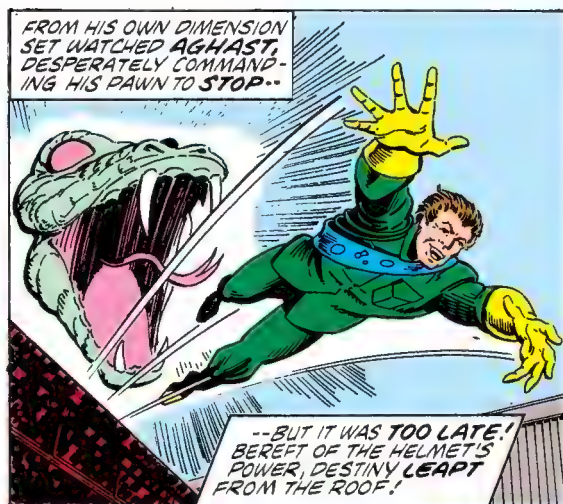
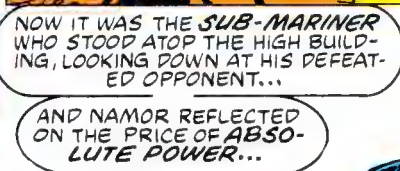
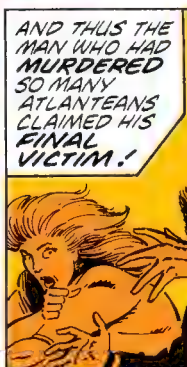
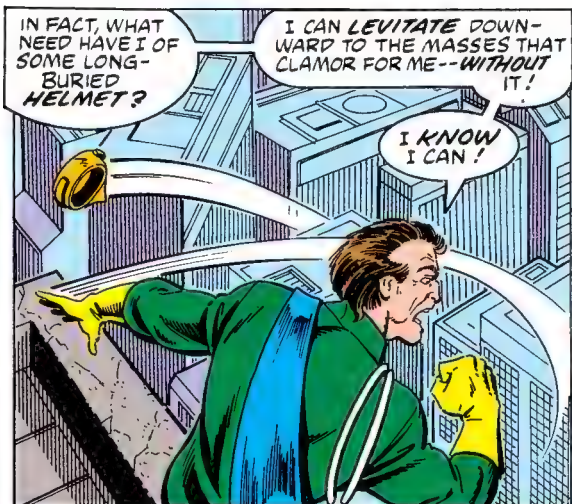
--AND HIS MIND SNAPPED!

--I'LL KILL ANYONE ELSE WHO STANDS BETWEEN ME AND MY GOAL!

MY GOAL OF UNIMPEACHABLE POWER!

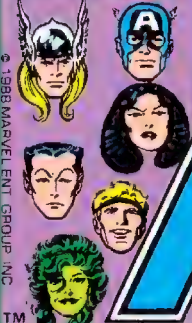
IT IS MY WORD THAT MUST AND SHALL BE LAW...MY WORD ALONE!







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ACTS of VENGEANCE!

# AVENGERS

HYDROBASE  
DESTROYED!



RYAN PALMER



STAN LEE PRESENTS THE ONGOING SAGA OF ACTS OF VENGEANCE :

# THE WEAKEST POINT

PAUL RYAN & - ARTISTS  
TOM PALMER  
JOHN BYRNE - WRITER  
NELSON YOMTOV - COLORIST  
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER  
HOWARD MACKIE - EDITOR  
TOM DEFALCO - ED. IN CHIEF

THE DAY IS DECEPTIVELY CALM. THROUGH THE FLICKERING FIELD THAT SURROUNDS HIM, THE HERO KNOWN AS QUASAR FEELS THE FIRST HINT OF FALL IN THE SEPTEMBER AIR.

BELOW HIM, THE COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS THAT IS AVENGERS ISLAND LIES CALM AND PEACEFUL AGAINST THE DARK WATERS OF THE CONVERGENCE OF THE EAST AND HUDSON RIVERS.

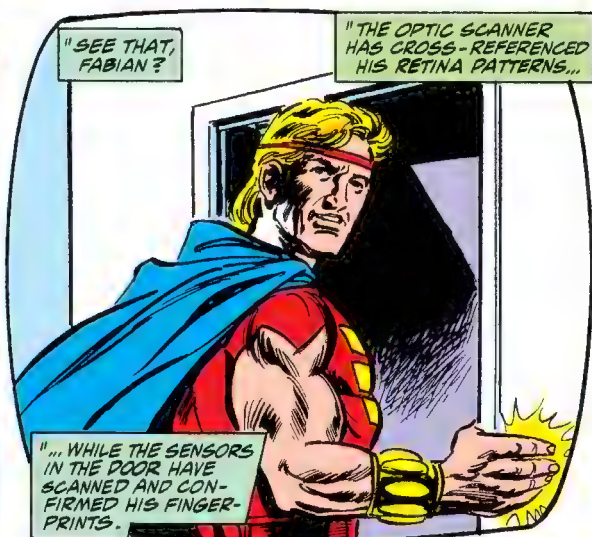
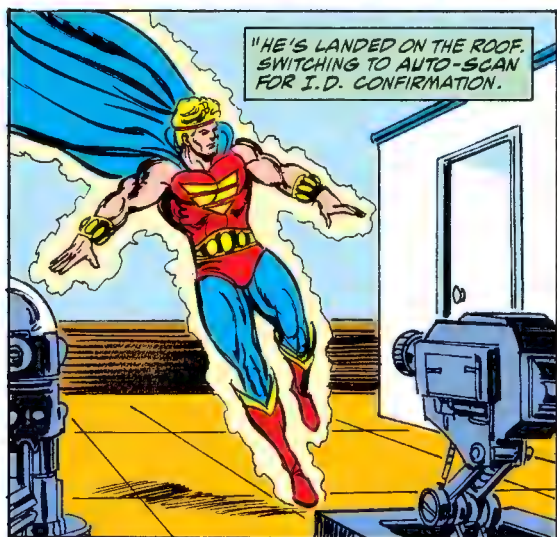
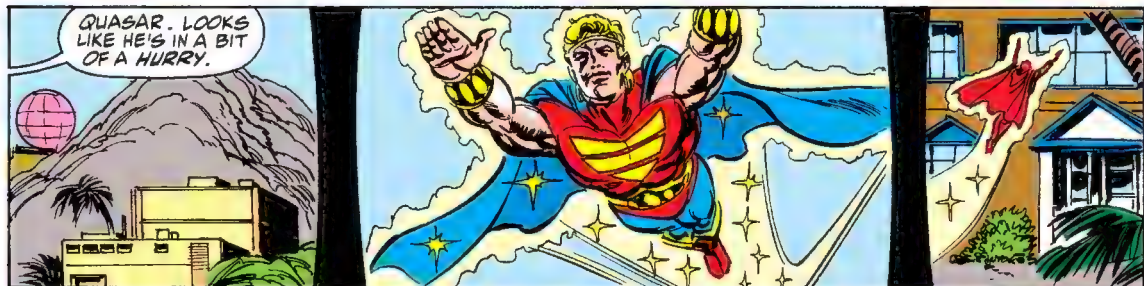
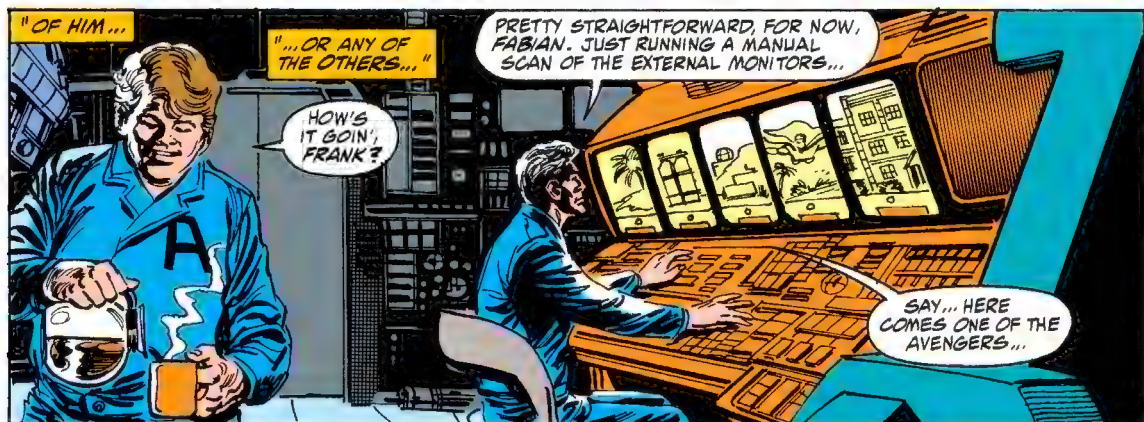
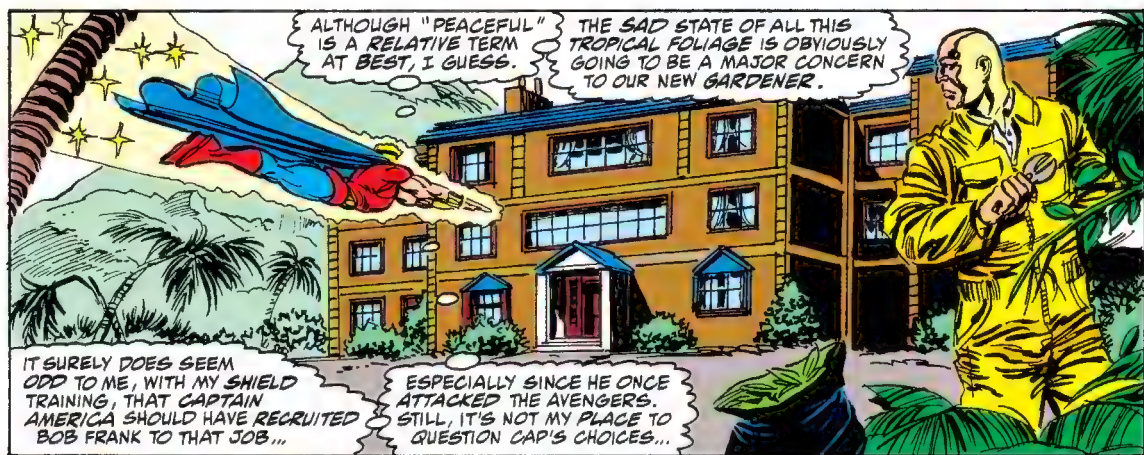
ODD TO SEE THE ISLAND LOOKING SO PEACEFUL...

AFTER ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

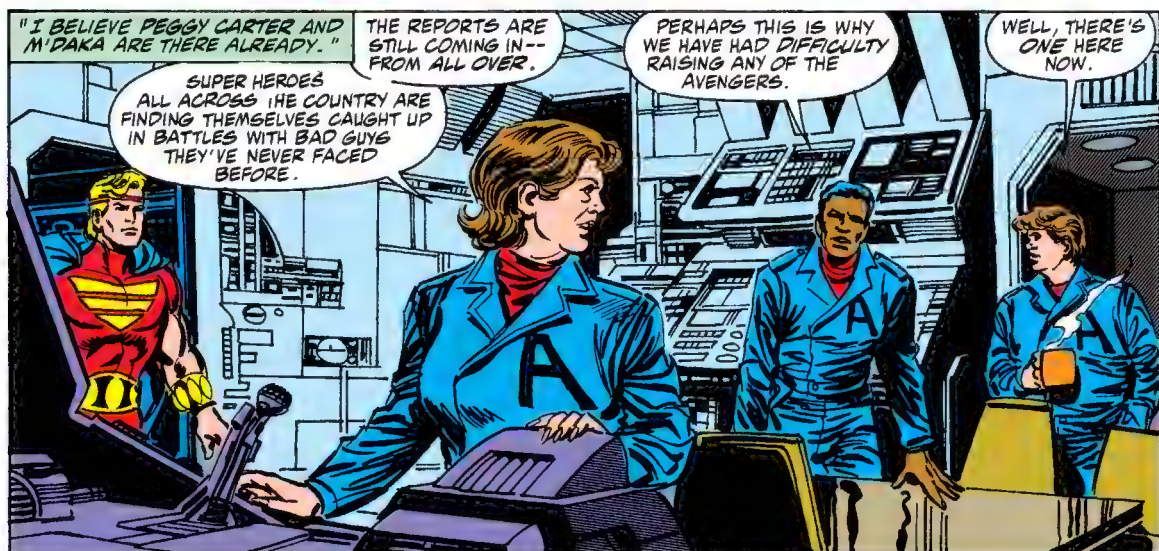
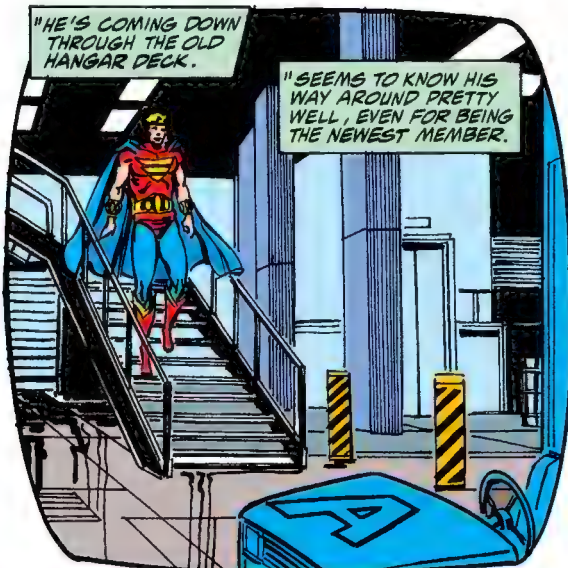
STILL, HIS YOUNG HEART POUNDS, HIS BLOOD YET SURGES WITH THE ADRENALINE PUMPED INTO IT DURING HIS BATTLE WITH THE UBIGUITOUS QUANTUM. A BATTLE ENDED ONLY MINUTES AGO.\*

\* THIS STORY FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY THE EVENTS OF QUASAR #4. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET READ THAT ISSUE, WE SINCERELY SUGGEST YOU DO ... PAUL, TOM, JOHN AND HOWARD.

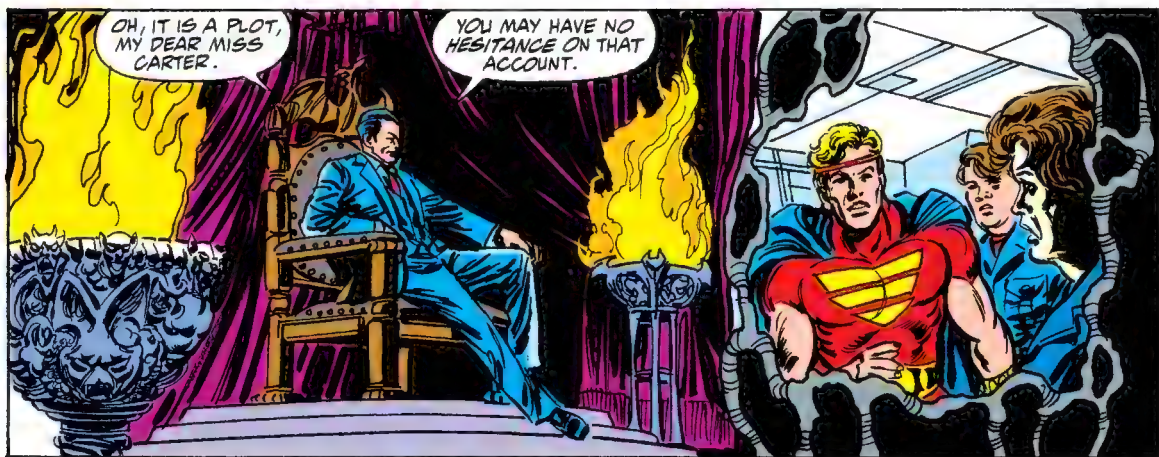












OH, IT IS A PLOT, MY DEAR MISS CARTER.

YOU MAY HAVE NO HESITANCE ON THAT ACCOUNT.



THOUGH THE PRECISE EXTENT-- AND THE EXTRAORDINARY SUBTLETY OF THE SCHEME WOULD BE BEYOND YOUR MORTAL COMPREHENSION, I AM SURE.

STILL, IT IS GOOD AFTER ALL THESE YEARS TO SEE AN END BEGUN TO A PARTICULARLY NAGGING THORN IN MY SIDE...



BOOOOONG

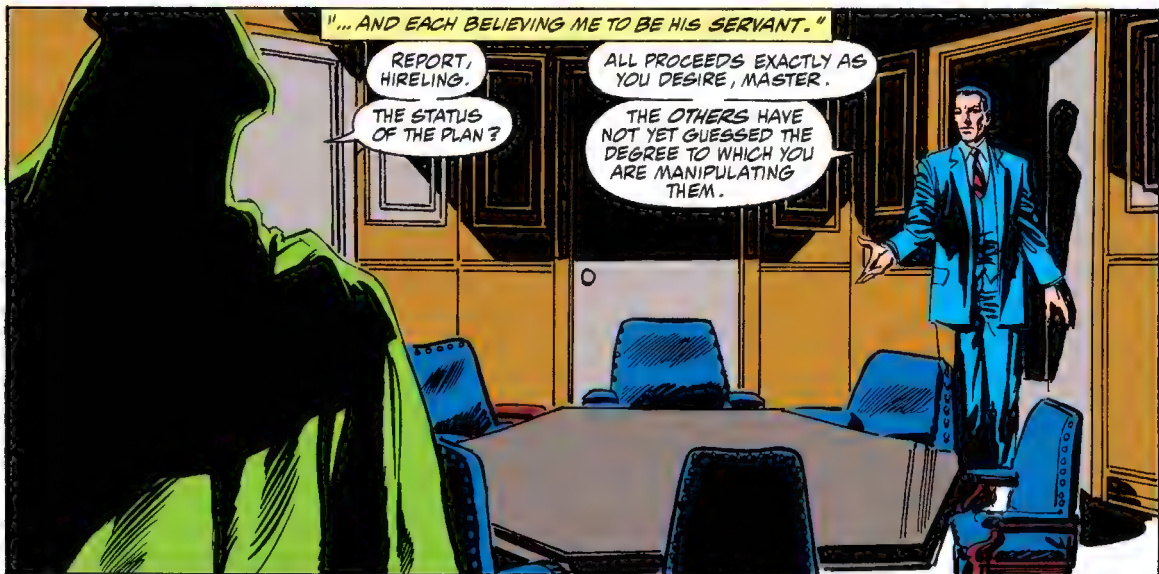
AH...! ONE OF THE OTHERS HAS ARRIVED AT THE CENTRAL CHAMBER. TIME ONCE MORE TO BEGIN MY PLAYACTING.



HOW AMUSING IT IS, TO HAVE THESE PETTY CREATURES--

--CREATURES I COULD SNIFF OUT WITH SCARCELY MORE THAN A FLICK OF THE FINGER--

--EACH BELIEVING HIMSELF TO BE THE MASTER-MIND OF THIS GREAT PLAN...



"...AND EACH BELIEVING ME TO BE HIS SERVANT."

REPORT, HIRELING.

THE STATUS OF THE PLAN?

ALL PROCEEDS EXACTLY AS YOU DESIRE, MASTER.

THE OTHERS HAVE NOT YET GUESSED THE DEGREE TO WHICH YOU ARE MANIPULATING THEM.





"MANIPULATED?"

AND WHO, EXACTLY, IS BEING "MANIPULATED," SERVANT?

WHY, THE CRIMEFIGHTERS, OF COURSE, MY FRIEND. AS IS YOUR WISH.



IT IS ALSO MY WISH THAT THESE COSTUMED CRETINS NOT BE GIVEN SO DIGNIFIED A TERM OF REFERENCES AS "CRIMEFIGHTERS," FOOL.

MANY HAVE STOOD AGAINST ME, AND NOTHING I DO IS A CRIME.

EXCEPT, PERHAPS, IN THE GREATEST SENSE. A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.



WATCH YOUR TONE, DOCTOR.

AT PRESENT YOU LACK THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WHICH IN THE PAST HAS PROTECTED YOU FROM JUST SUCH CHARGES.

IT ILL BEHOVES YOU TO PLAY THE MONARCH, WHEN THE MONARCHY IS LOST.



NOW, GIVE ME YOUR REPORT.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR PART IN THE MASTER PLAN?

I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO MODERATE YOUR OWN TONE. THERE IS MUCH ABOUT MY PRESENT SITUATION THAT IS UNKNOWN TO YOU.

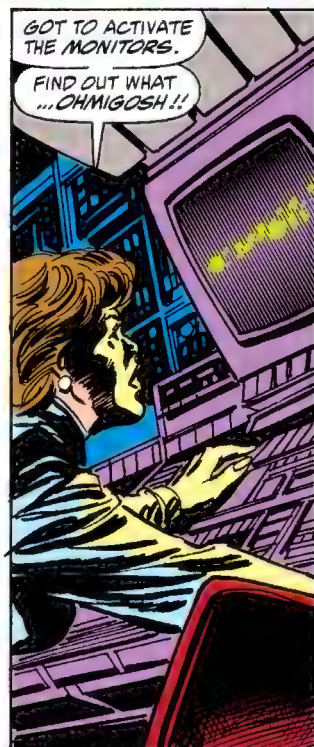
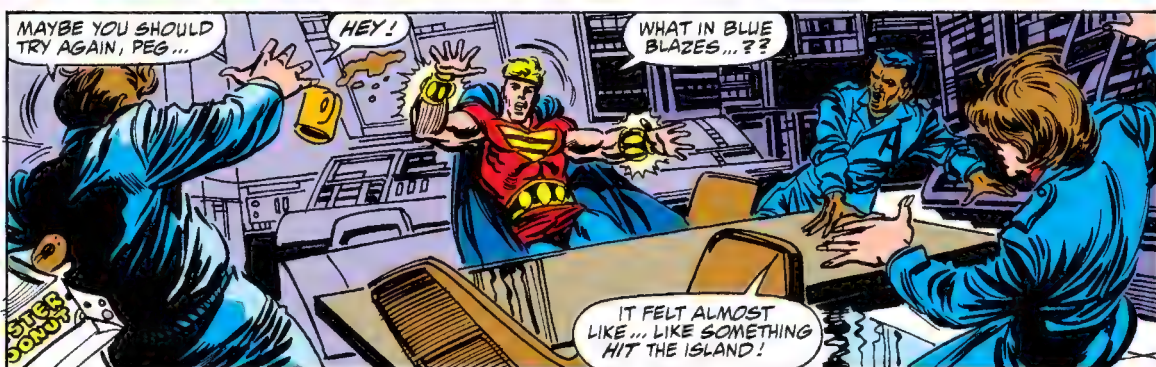
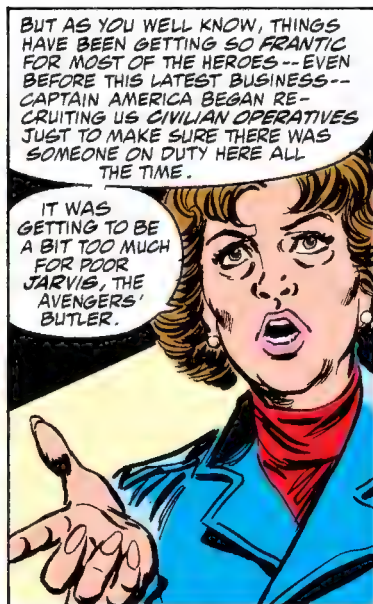
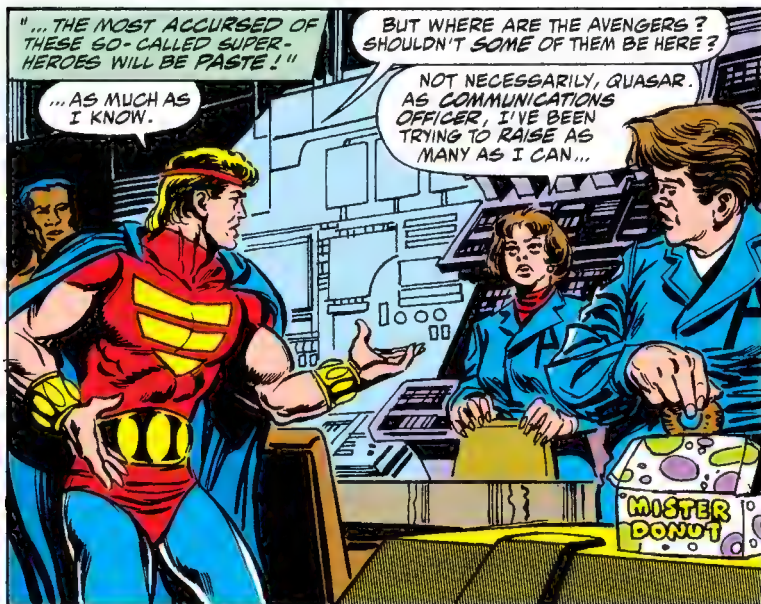


AS TO MY "PART" IN THIS...

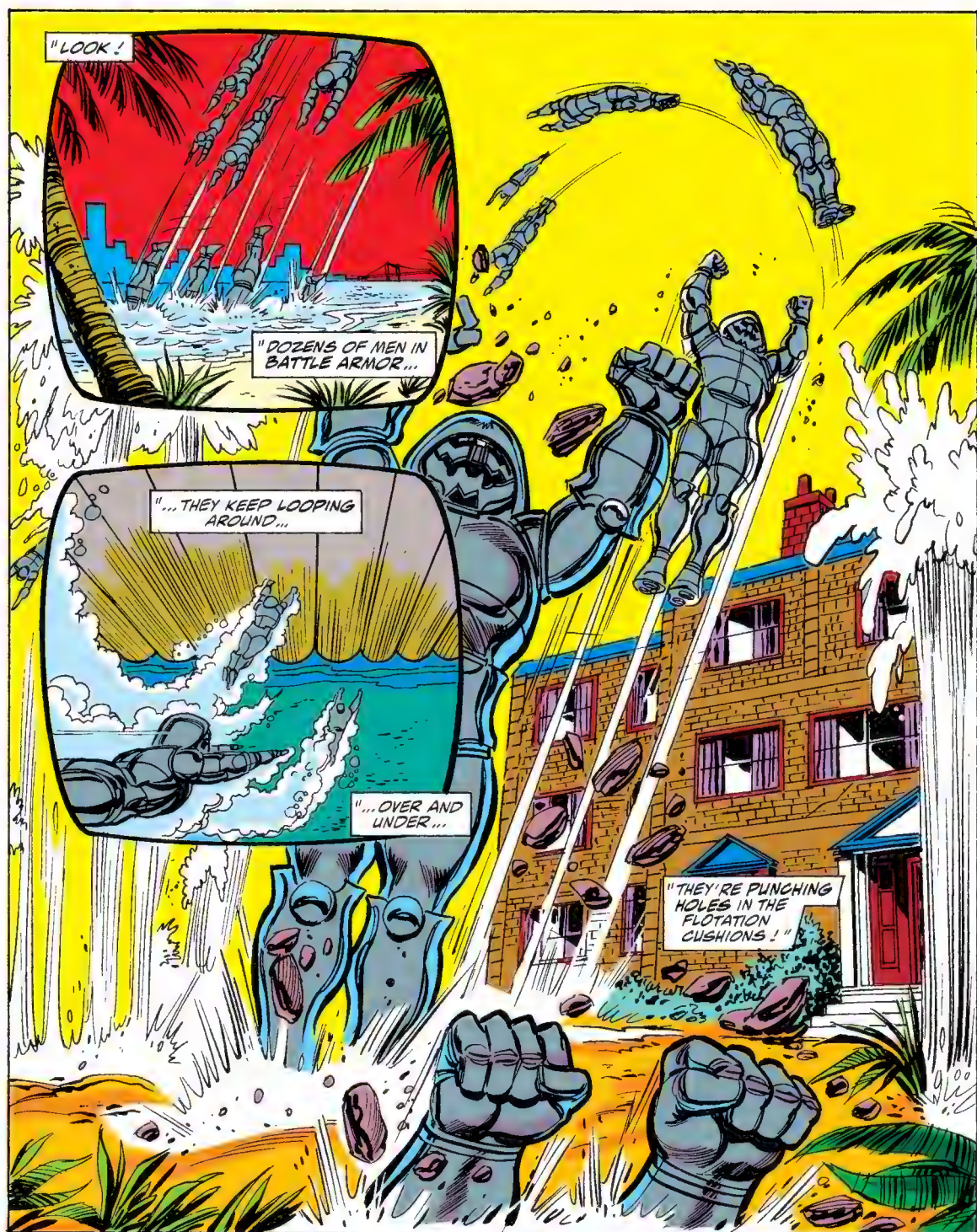
SUFFICE TO SAY THE MECHANISMS ARE SET IN MOTION...

THE WHEELS GRIND. AND WHEN ALL IS DONE...









"LOOK !

"DOZENS OF MEN IN  
BATTLE ARMOR..."

"...THEY KEEP LOOPING  
AROUND..."

"...OVER AND  
UNDER..."

"THEY'RE PUNCHING  
HOLES IN THE  
FLOTATION  
CUSHIONS !"



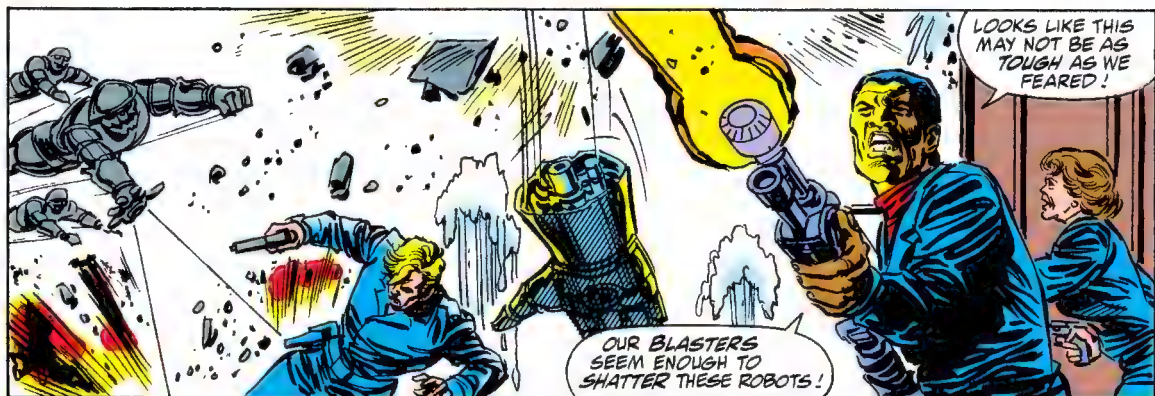
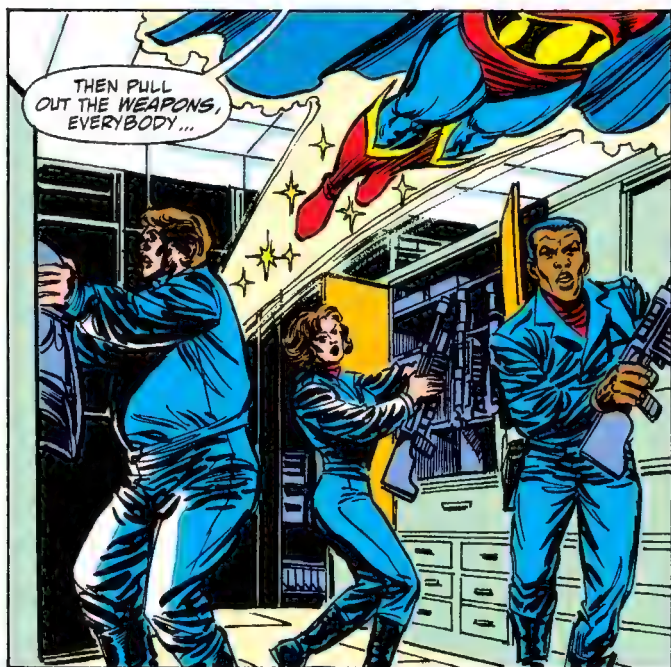
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE  
MEN, PEG.

THEIR PROPORTIONS  
LOOK WRONG TO HAVE  
A HUMAN INSIDE.

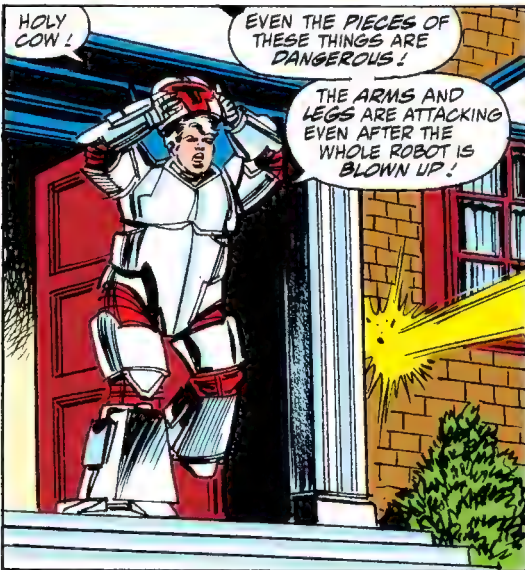
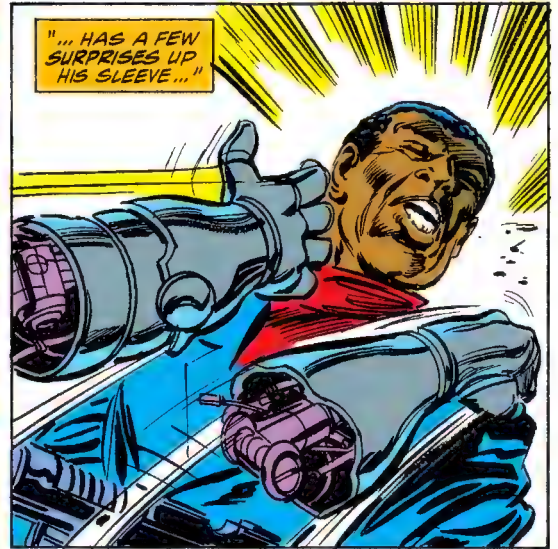
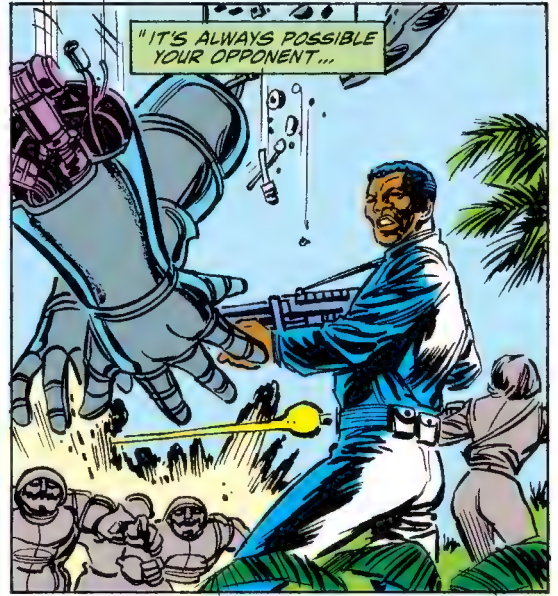
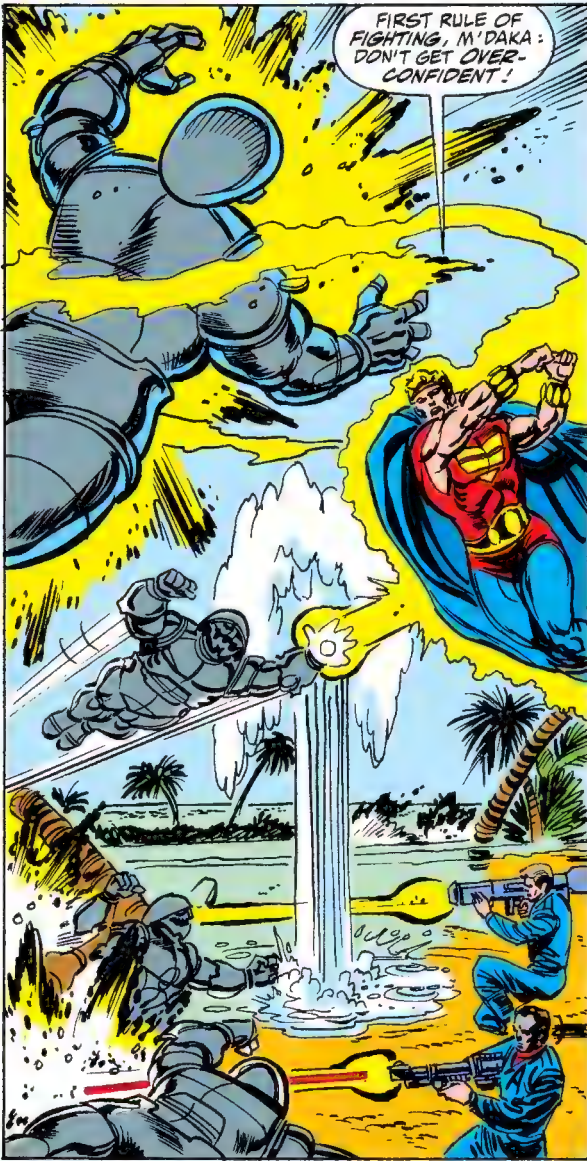
BUT WHATEVER THEY  
ARE ... WE'VE GOT TO  
STOP 'EM ...  
PRONTO !

I'VE ALREADY HIT THE  
EMERGENCY ALERT,  
QUASAR ...

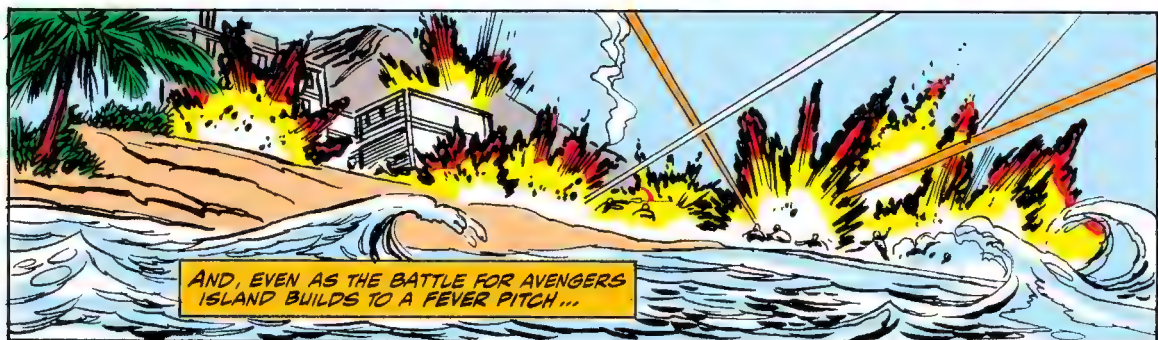
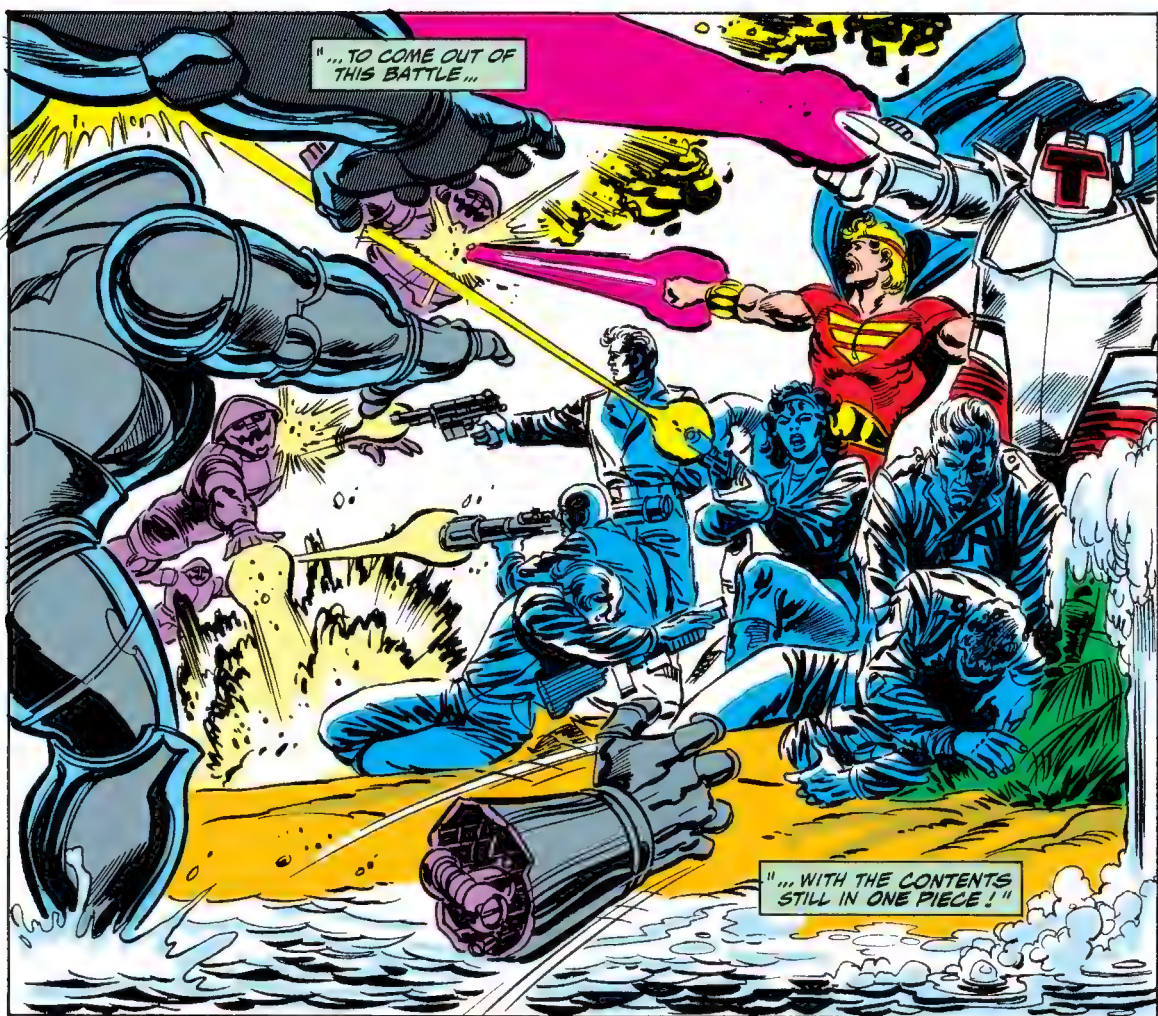
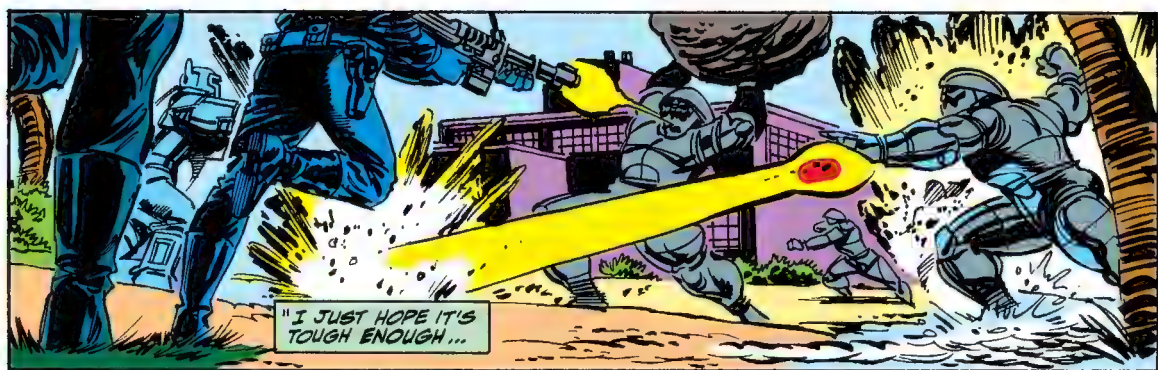














...FAR ACROSS THE FATHOMLESS VOID OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE...



...THE SOMETIME AVENGER KNOWN AS STARFOX IS DRAWING CLOSER TO THE HEART OF AN EVIL HE HAS LONG PURSUED.



THE DESIGN OF THIS VESSEL IS UNKNOWN TO ME.

CLEARLY MY GRANDNIECE HAS WANDERED FAR IN THE TIME I SEARCHED FOR HER TRAIL BETWEEN THE STARS.



I WONDER IF THIS SHIP IS SOMEHOW PART OF HER...

HEY! YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THE MISTRESS'S PEOPLE...!

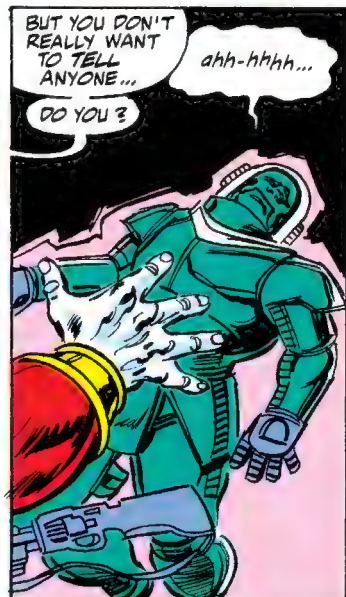


NO, I'M NOT.

BUT YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO TELL ANYONE...

ahh-hhhh...

DO YOU?



THERE NOW...



HE'LL DREAM WHATEVER PASSES FOR MOST PLEASANT DREAMS IN HIS KIND...

...WHILE I...

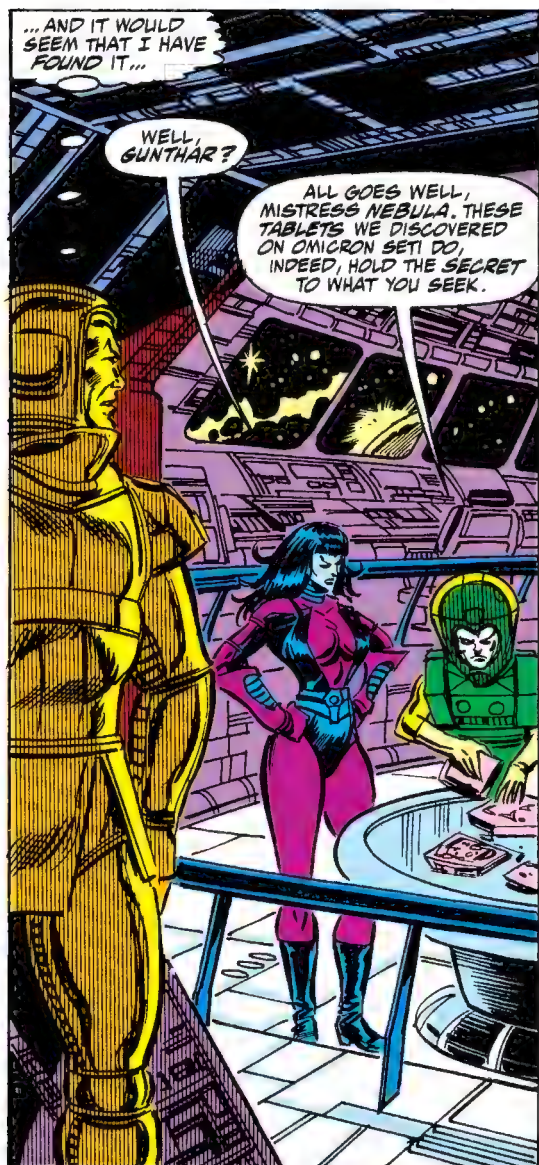


...PUT THE DISGUISED QUALITIES OF HIS ENVIRONMENT SUIT TO GOOD USE.

BIG THOUGH THIS SHIP MAY BE, FROM WHAT I SAW OUTSIDE THERE IS ONLY ONE LOGICAL PLACE FOR THE BRIDGE...



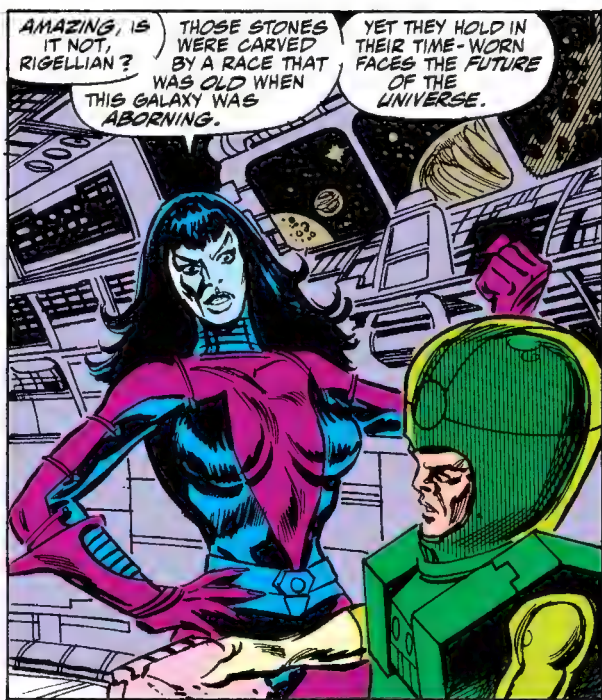




...AND IT WOULD SEEM THAT I HAVE FOUND IT...

WELL, GUNTAR?

ALL GOES WELL, MISTRESS NEBULA. THESE TABLETS WE DISCOVERED ON OMICRON SETI DO, INDEED, HOLD THE SECRET TO WHAT YOU SEEK.



AMAZING, IS IT NOT, RIGELLIAN?

THOSE STONES WERE CARVED BY A RACE THAT WAS OLD WHEN THIS GALAXY WAS ABORNING.

YET THEY HOLD IN THEIR TIME-WORN FACES THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSE.

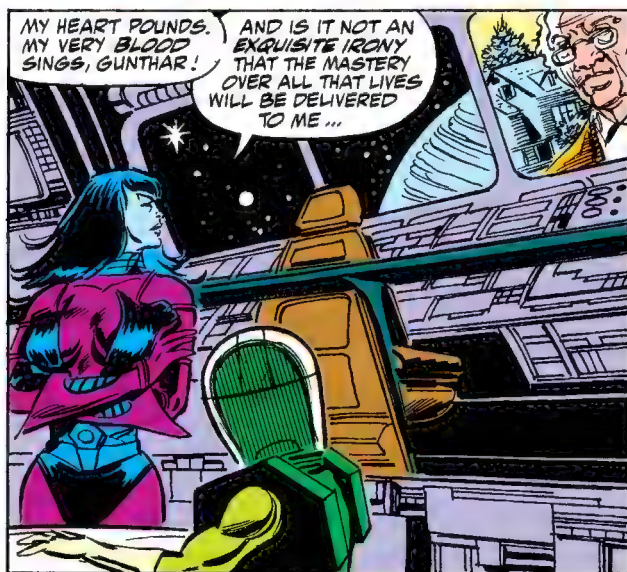


HER WORDS MAKE NO MORE SENSE NOW THAN THEY DID WHEN I SPIED ON HER IN OMICRON.

WHAT CAN BE THE NATURE OF HER SCHEME? SHE SAID THEN SHE'D FOUND A WAY TO MAKE HERSELF MORE POWERFUL THAN HER EVIL GRANDFATHER, MY LATE BROTHER, THANOS.

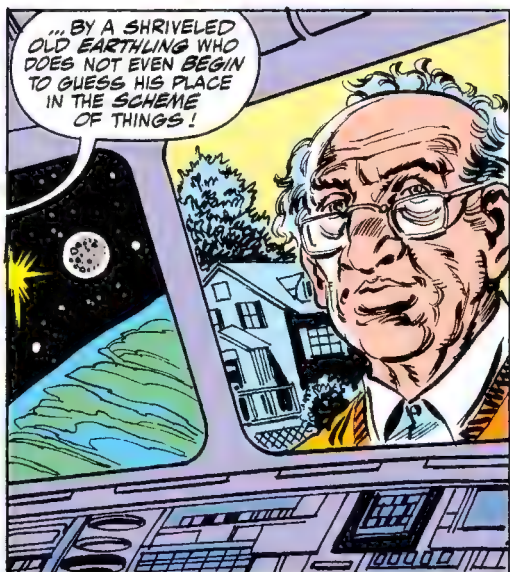
BUT HOW CAN THERE BE SUCH POWER?

AND WHERE IN ALL OF SPACE DOES SHE EXPECT TO FIND IT?



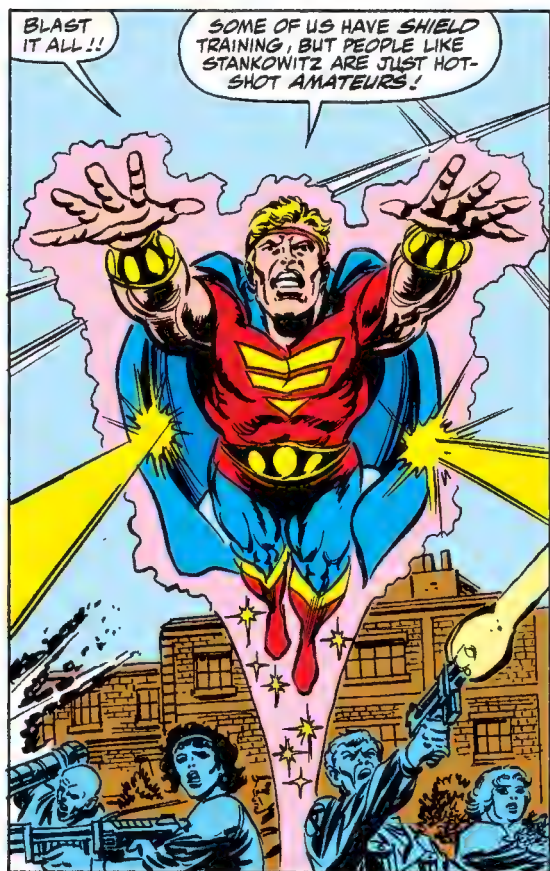
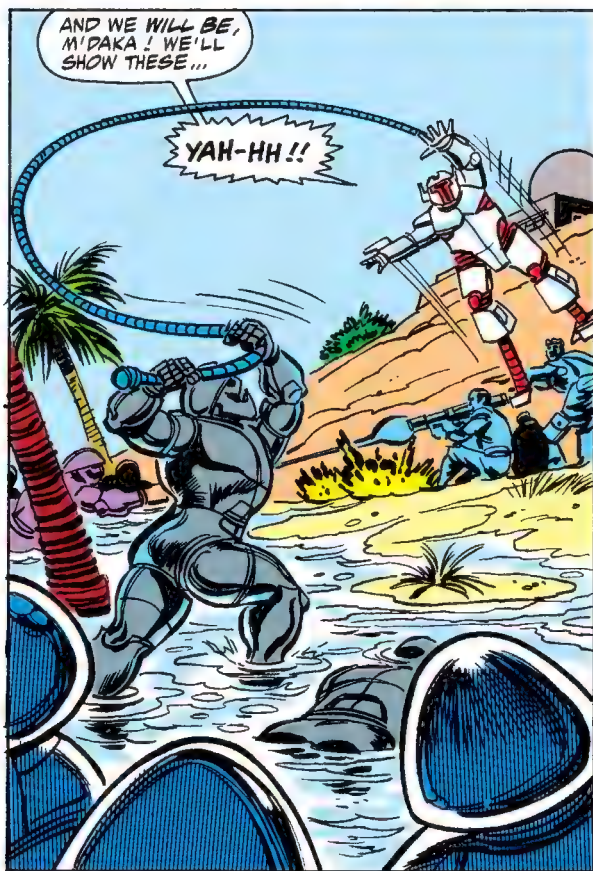
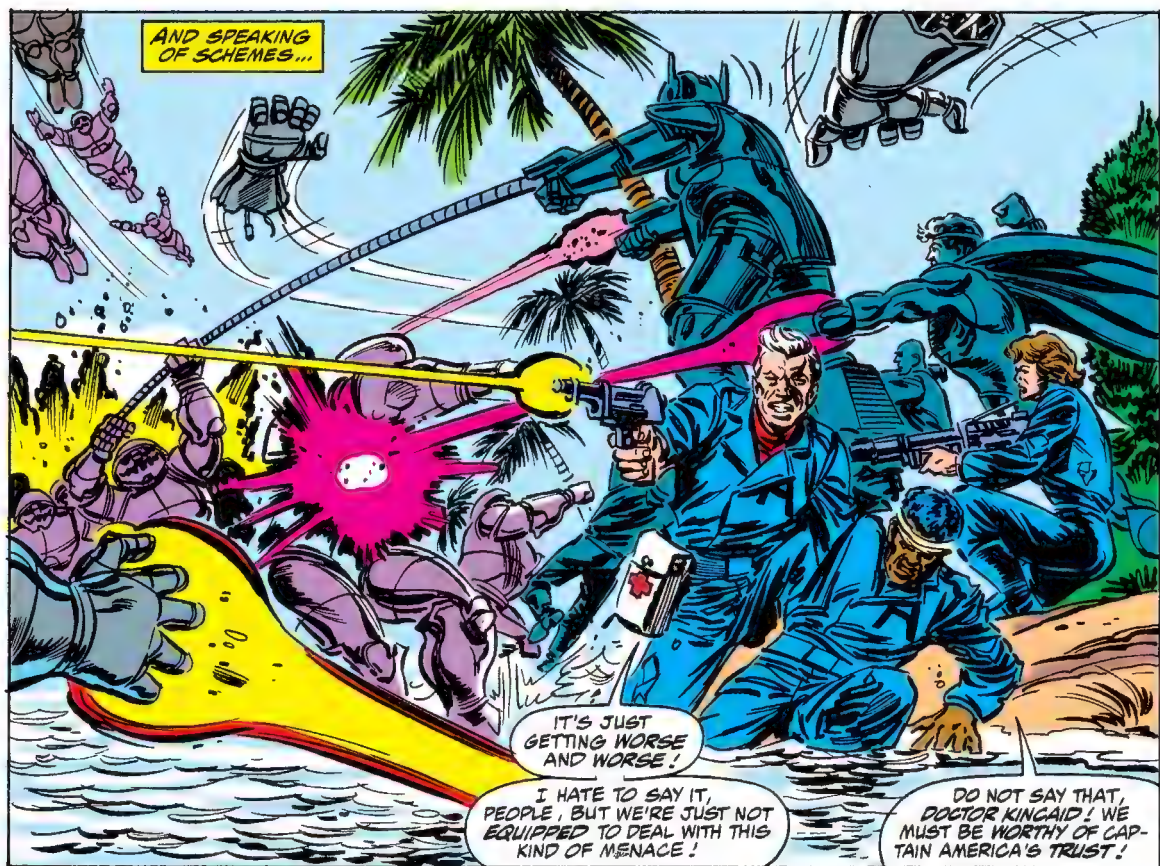
MY HEART POUNDS. MY VERY BLOOD SINGS, GUNTAR!

AND IS IT NOT AN EXQUISITE IRONY THAT THE MASTERY OVER ALL THAT LIVES WILL BE DELIVERED TO ME...

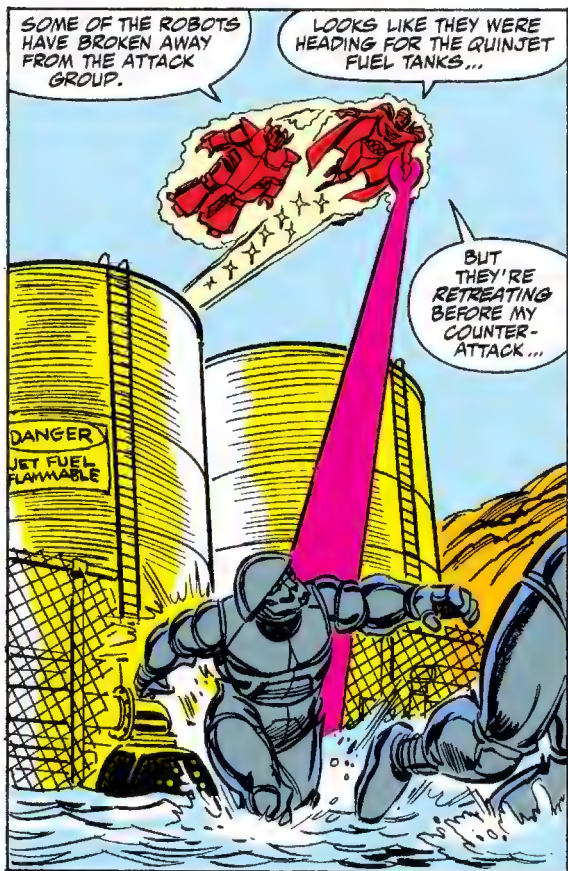
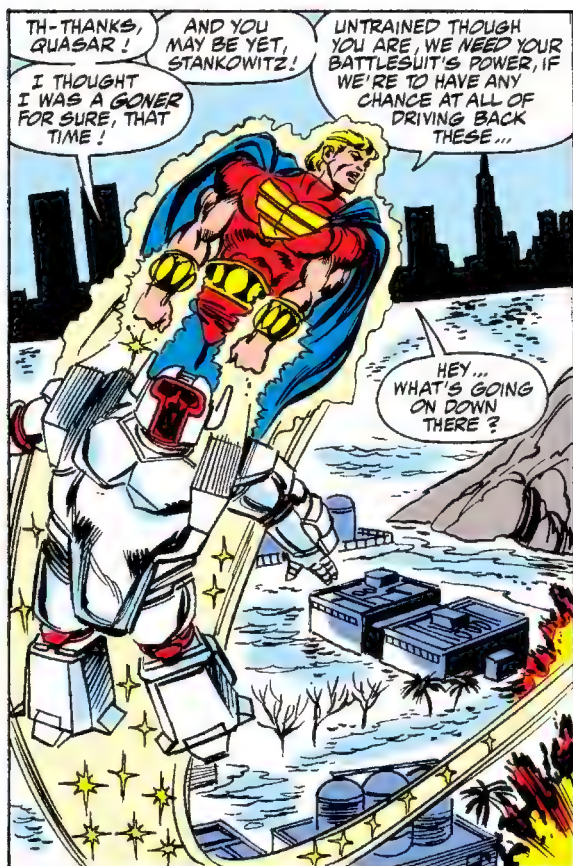
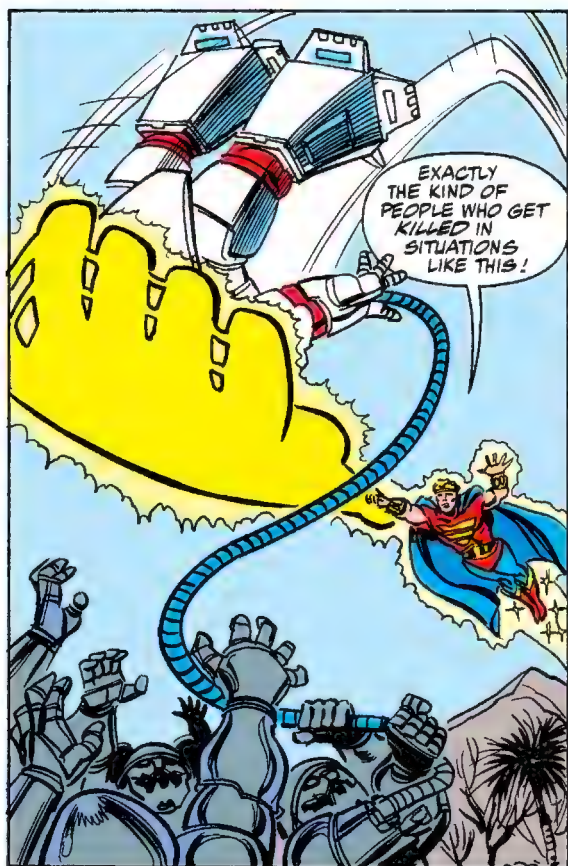


...BY A SHRIVELED OLD EARTHLING WHO DOES NOT EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS HIS PLACE IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS!

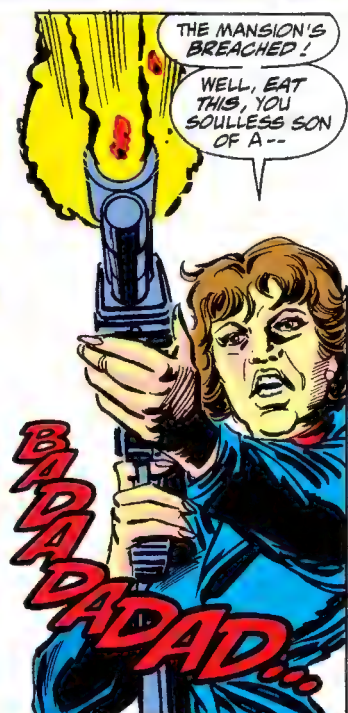
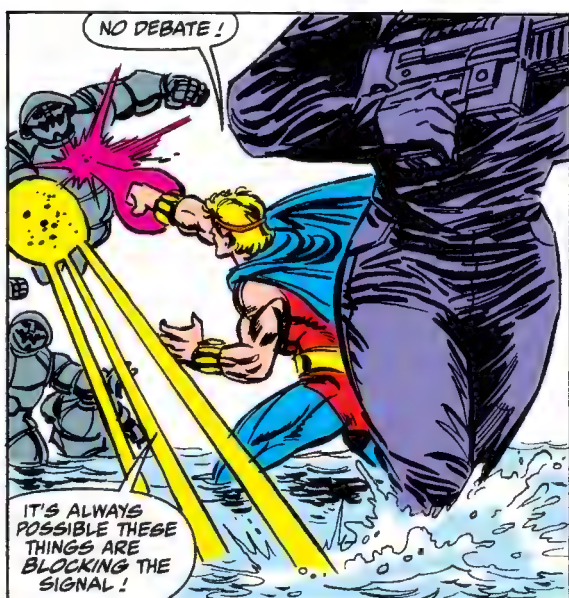
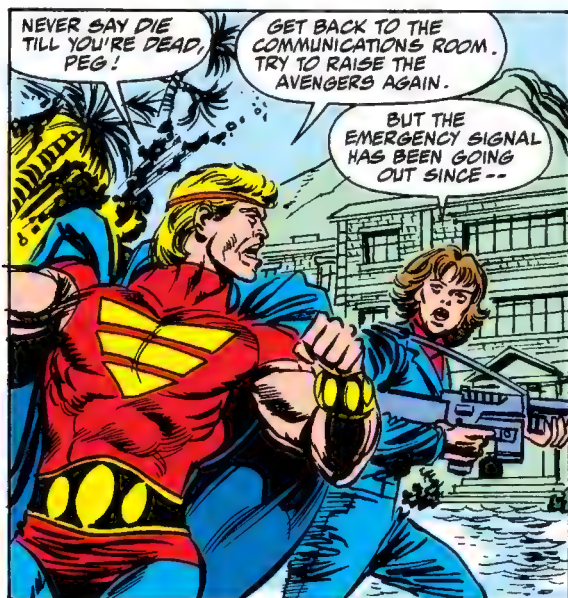




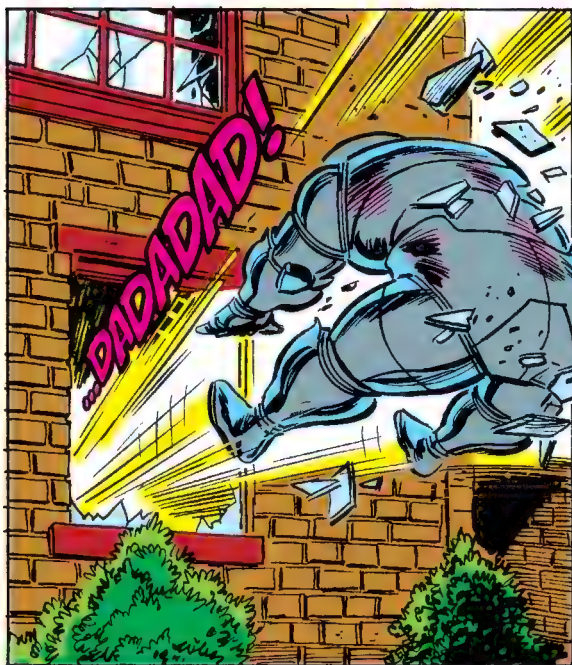










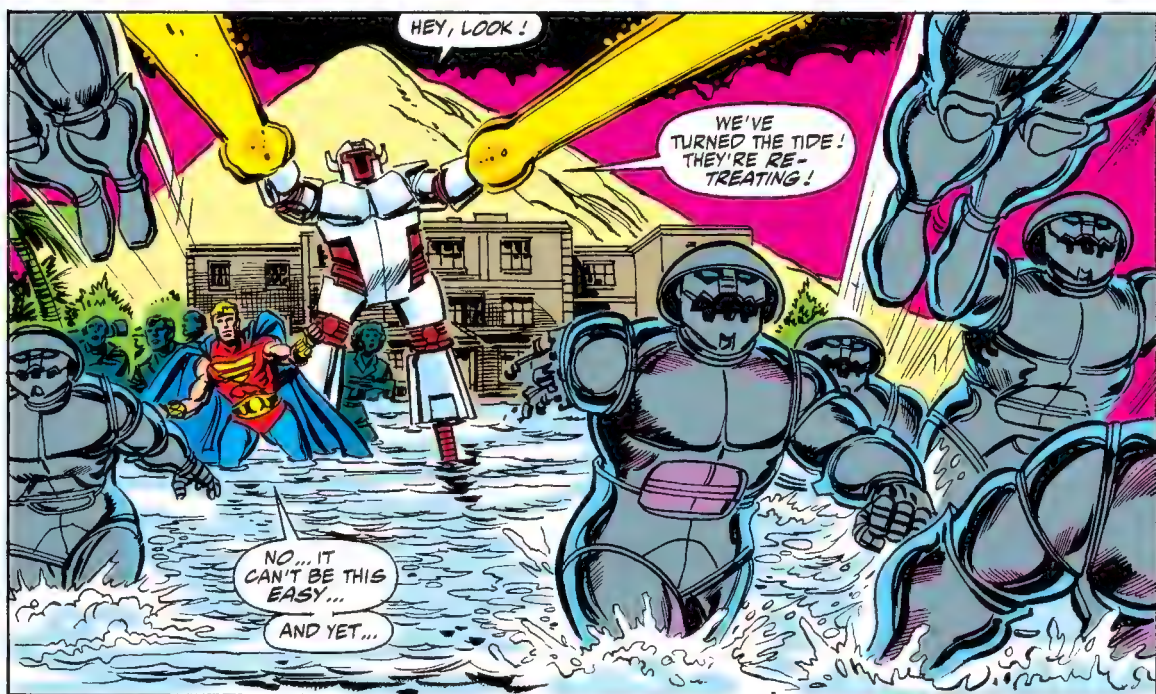
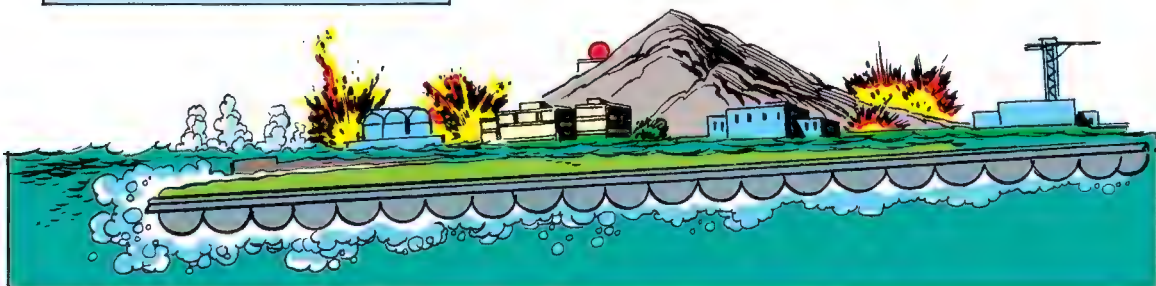


LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS THE ONLY ONE TO GET THROUGH, SO FAR.

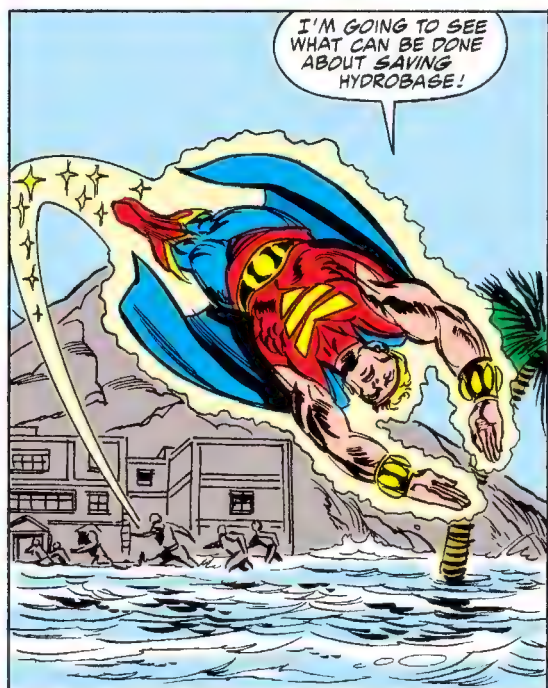
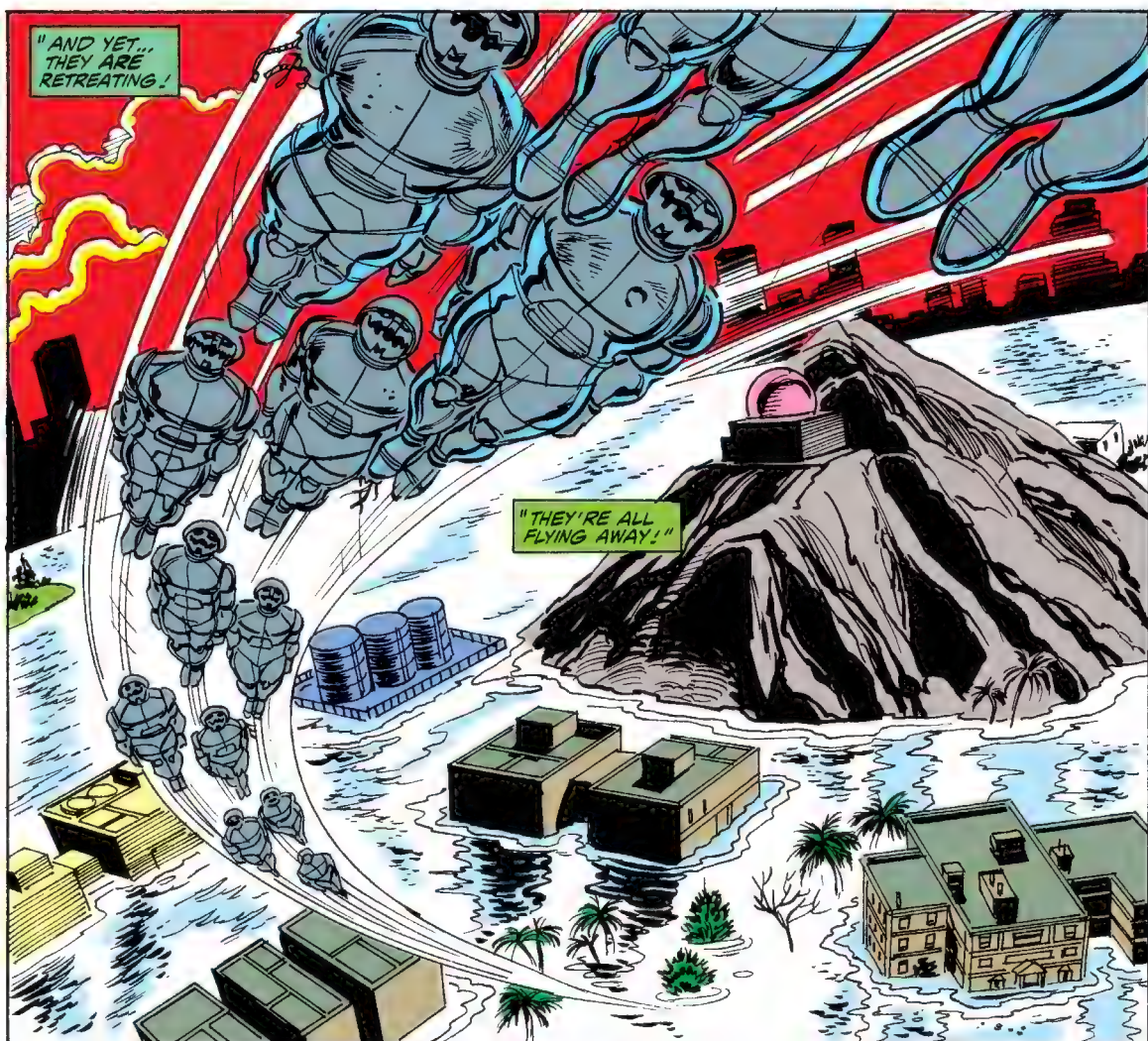
THE BOYS ARE DOING A GOOD JOB OF HOLDING THE ISLAND. BUT THE WAY WE'RE SINKING...



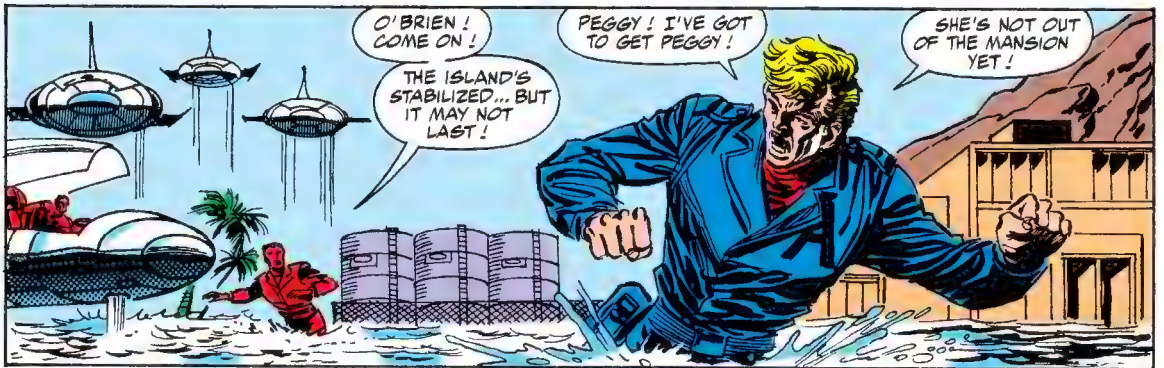
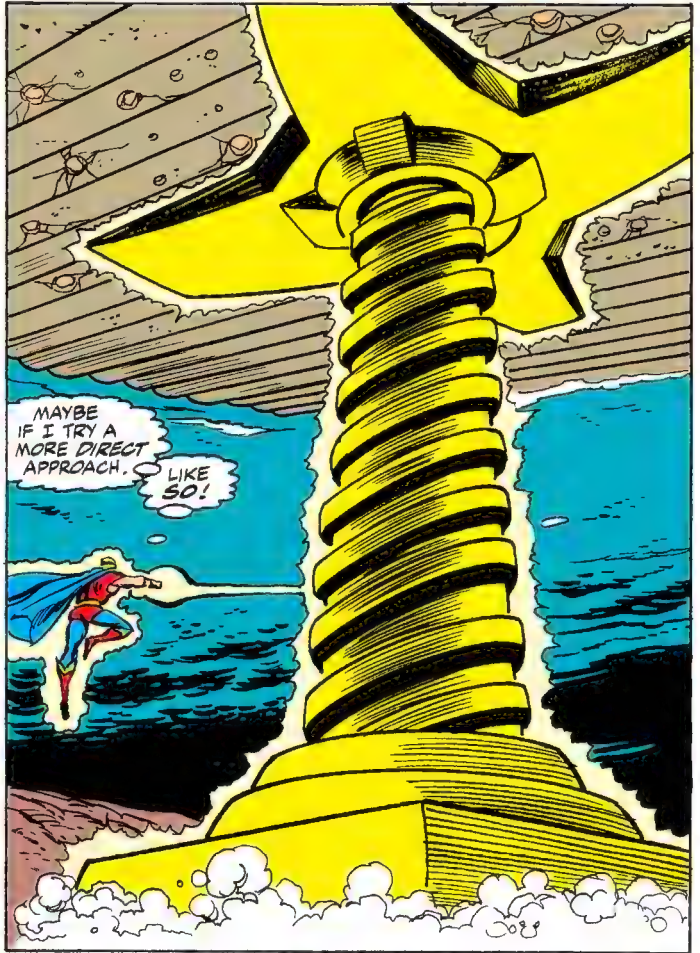
"... IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER BEFORE THERE'S NO ISLAND TO HOLD!"



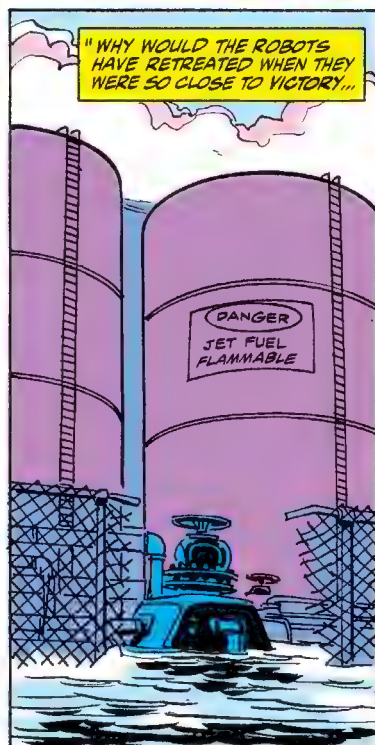
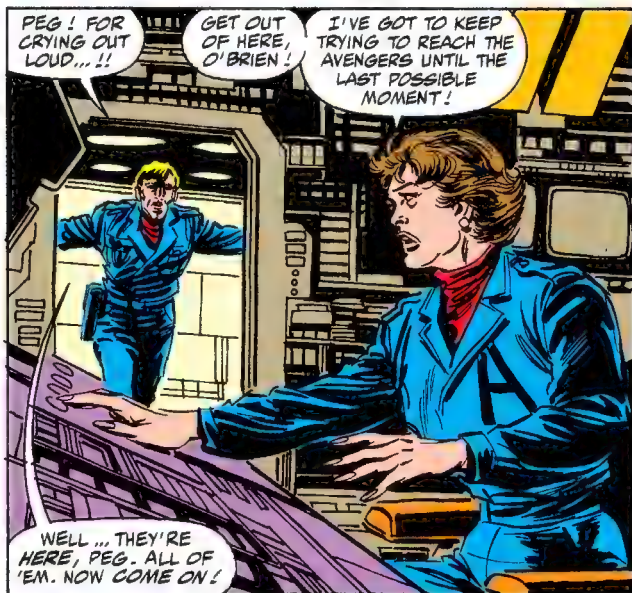




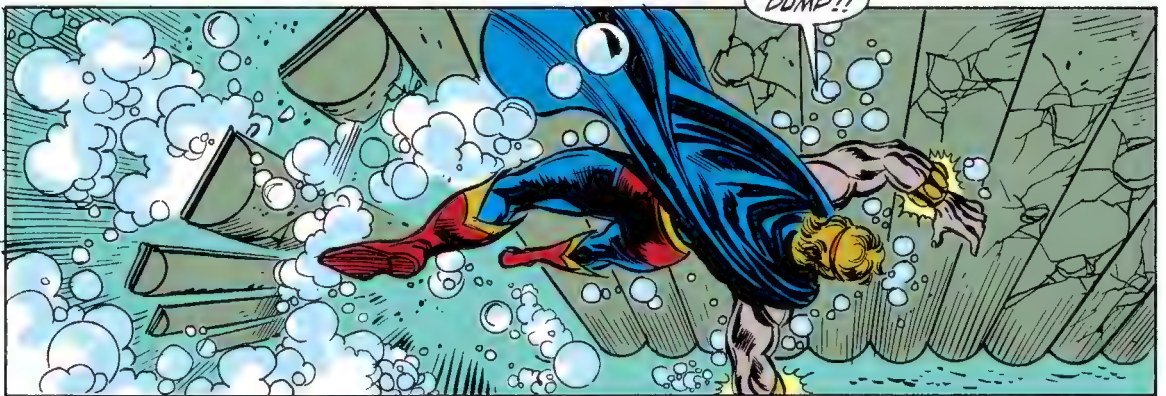
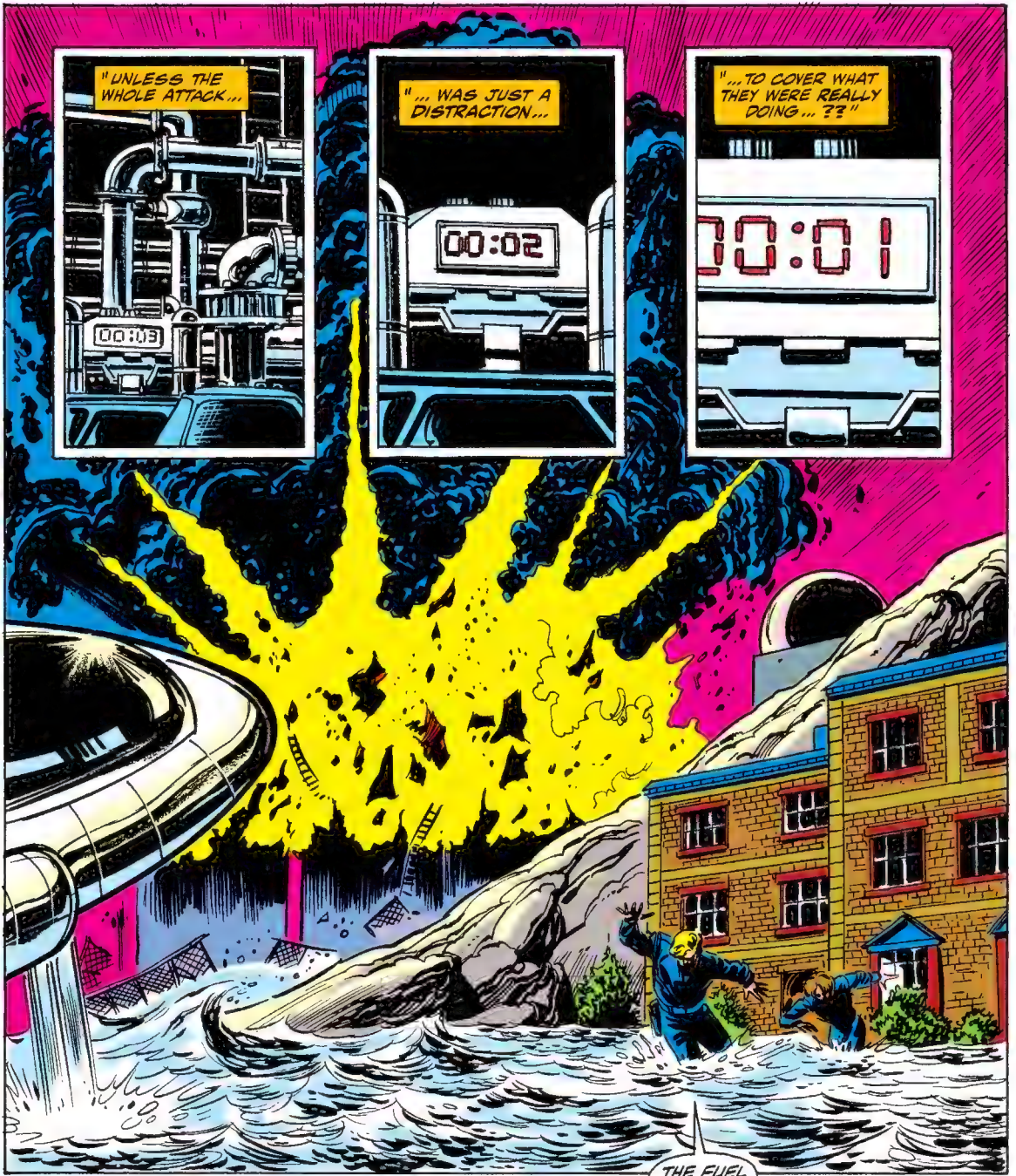




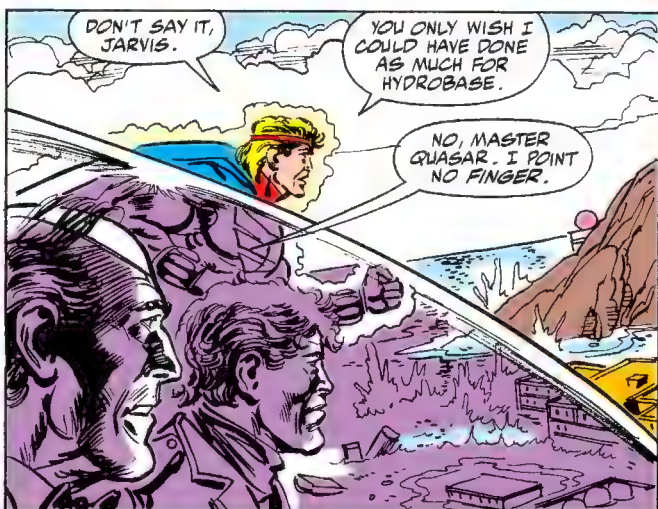
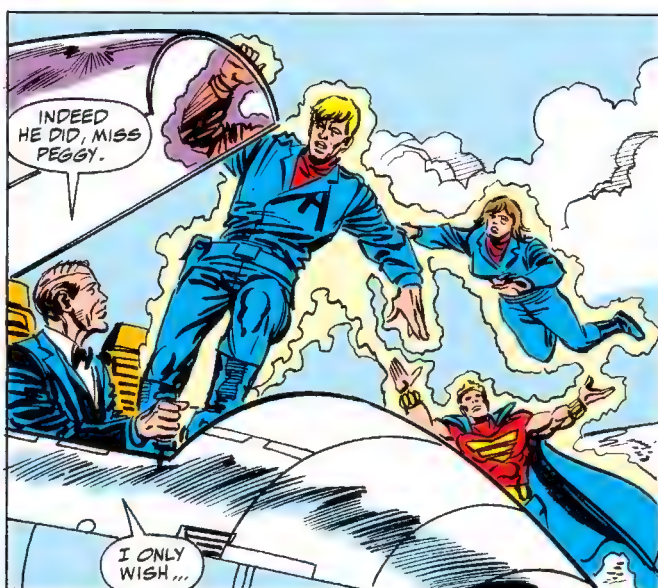
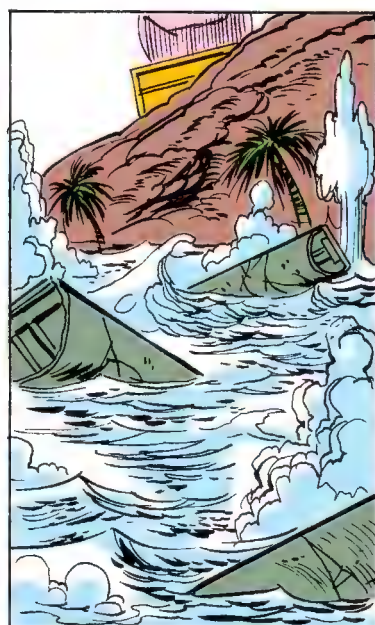
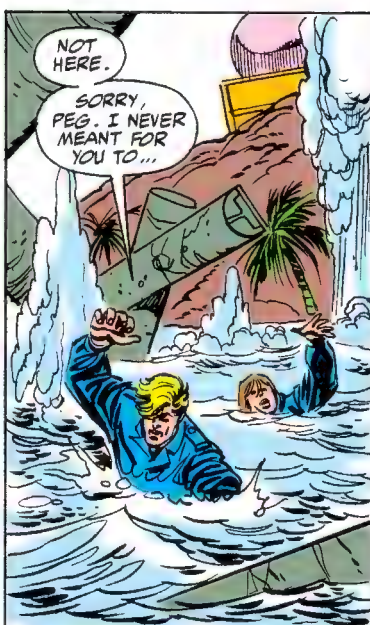
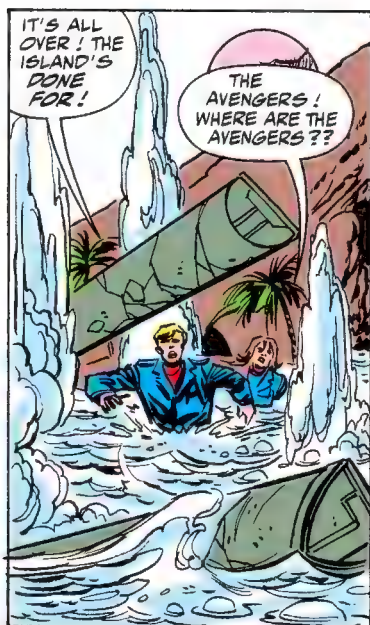




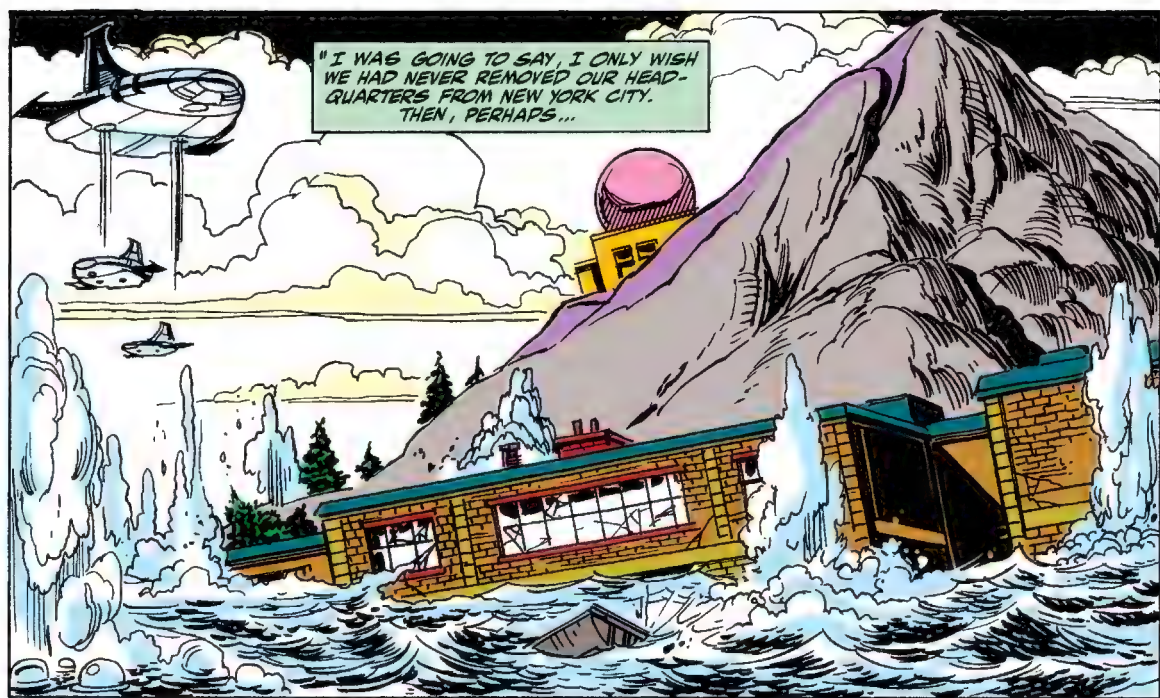




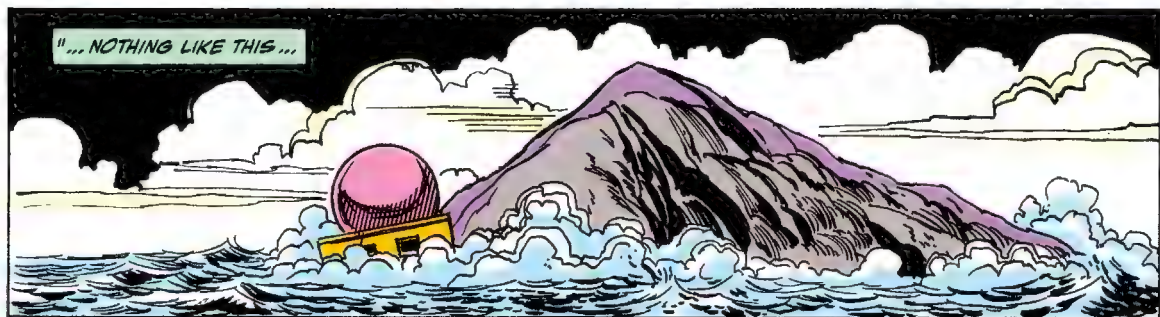




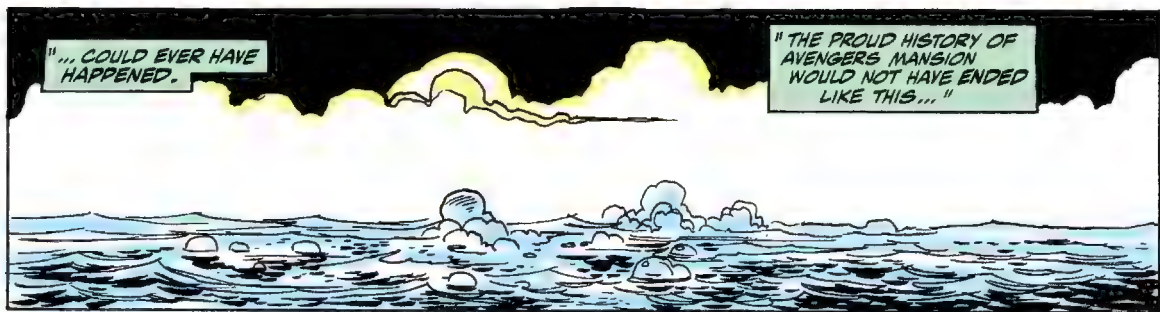




"I WAS GOING TO SAY, I ONLY WISH  
WE HAD NEVER REMOVED OUR HEAD-  
QUARTERS FROM NEW YORK CITY.  
THEN, PERHAPS..."

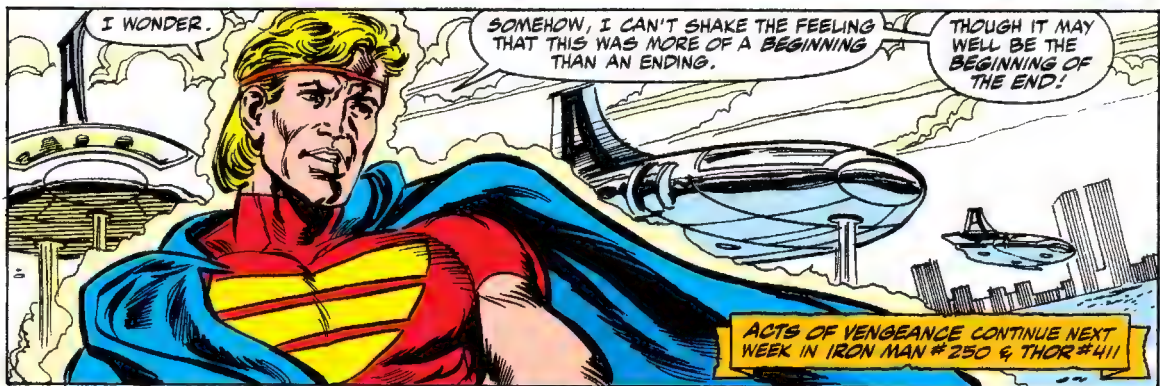


"... NOTHING LIKE THIS ..."



"... COULD EVER HAVE  
HAPPENED."

"THE PROUD HISTORY OF  
AVENGERS MANSION  
WOULD NOT HAVE ENDED  
LIKE THIS..."



"I WONDER..."

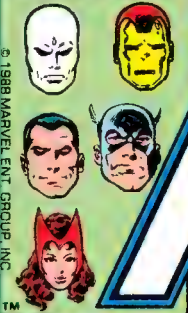
"SOMEHOW, I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING  
THAT THIS WAS MORE OF A BEGINNING  
THAN AN ENDING."

"THOUGH IT MAY  
WELL BE THE  
BEGINNING OF  
THE END!"

ACTS OF VENGEANCE CONTINUE NEXT  
WEEK IN IRON MAN #250 & THOR #411



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ACTS of VENGEANCE!

# AVENGERS WEST COAST

ENTER THE 4-FOES!

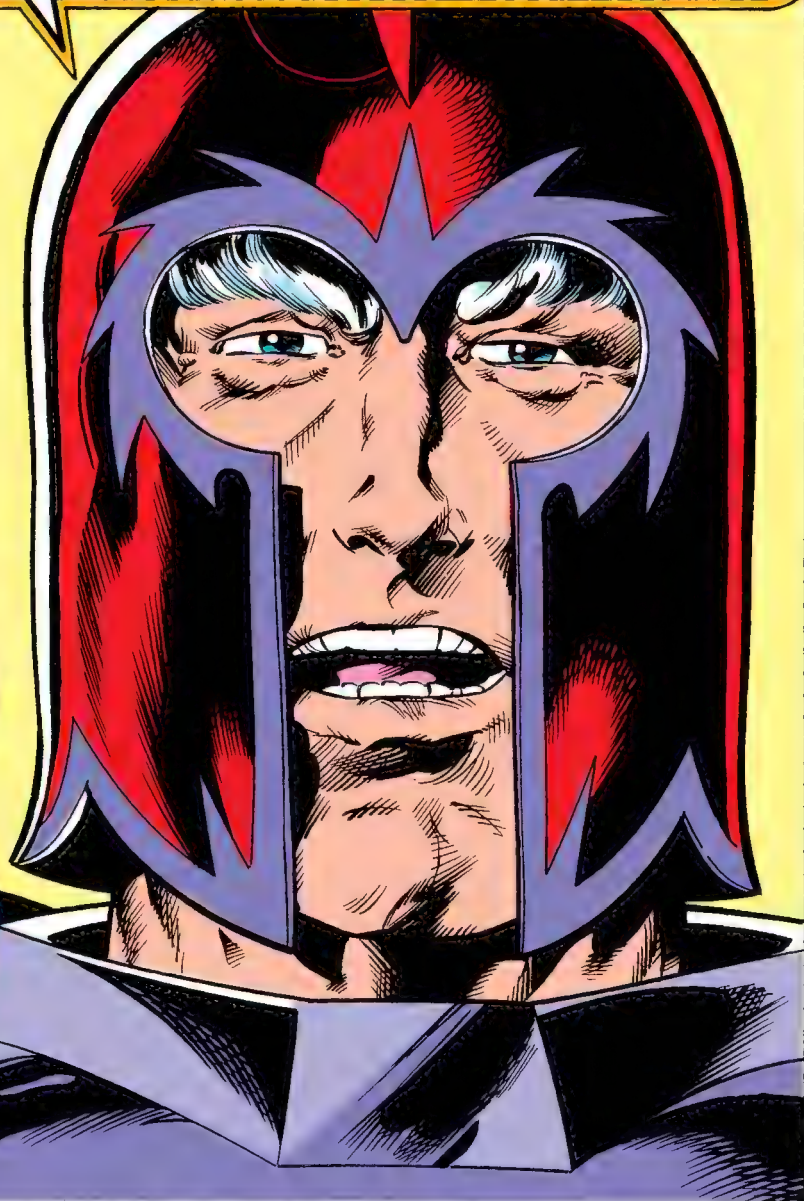




# THE PLAN PROCEEDS!

QUITE SO, MY LORD! ALL ACROSS AMERICA, VARIOUS SO-CALLED SUPER-VILLAINS ACT AGAINST HEROES UNFAMILIAR WITH THEIR POWERS AND ABILITIES.

IT WILL NOT BE LONG ERE WE SEE THOSE CHAMPIONS UTTERLY OBLITERATED!



Stan Lee  
PRESENTS: JOHN BYRNE • KEITH WILLIAMS • BILL OAKLEY ~ letterer • HOWARD MACKIE • TOM DEFALCO  
WRITER/PENCILER INKER COLORIST EDITOR ED. IN CHIEF





FOOL! THINK YOU MAGNETO CARES ONE WHIT FOR SUCH PALTRY SCHEMING?

I...



WHEN FIRST YOU APPROACHED ME WITH THE SEED OF YOUR IDEA, I SAW NOT SO MUCH A CHANCE TO CRUSH THE COSTUMED CRETINS WHO CALL THEMSELVES SUPER HEROES...

... BUT A CHANCE FOR THE ULTIMATE BETTERMENT OF MY OWN MUTANTKIND!

AND A CHANCE TO RECLAIM AN ALLEGIANCE THAT IS MINE BY RIGHT!



NOW... ) CONTINUE WITH THE PORTIONS OF THE PLAN I HAVE ALLOTTED YOU. I HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!

YES, MY LORD.

OF COURSE, MY LORD.

YOUR SERVANT, MY LORD.

CHERISH YOUR IMAGINED GLORIES FOR THE MOMENTS THEY ARE GRANTED TO YOU, MUTANT. THEY WILL NOT LAST LONG.

NO LONGER, IN FACT, THAN THE SPAN OF YOUR OWN USEFULNESS TO THE REAL MASTERMIND OF THIS PLAN.

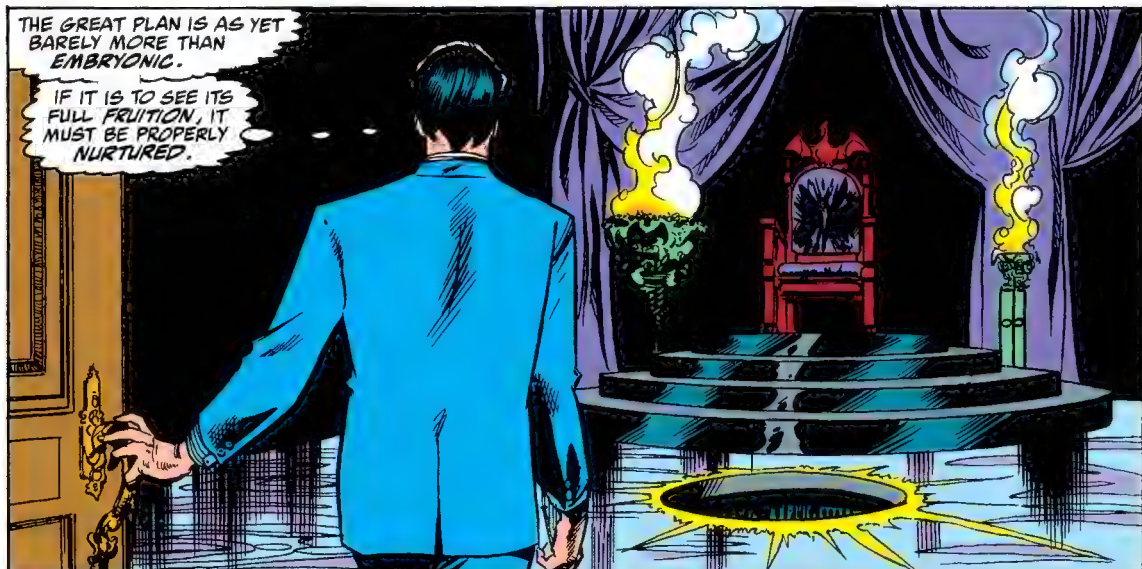






BUT NOW...

THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS WITH WHICH I MUST NEEDS CONCERN MYSELF.



THE GREAT PLAN IS AS YET BARELY MORE THAN EMBRYONIC.

IF IT IS TO SEE ITS FULL FRUITION, IT MUST BE PROPERLY NURTURED.



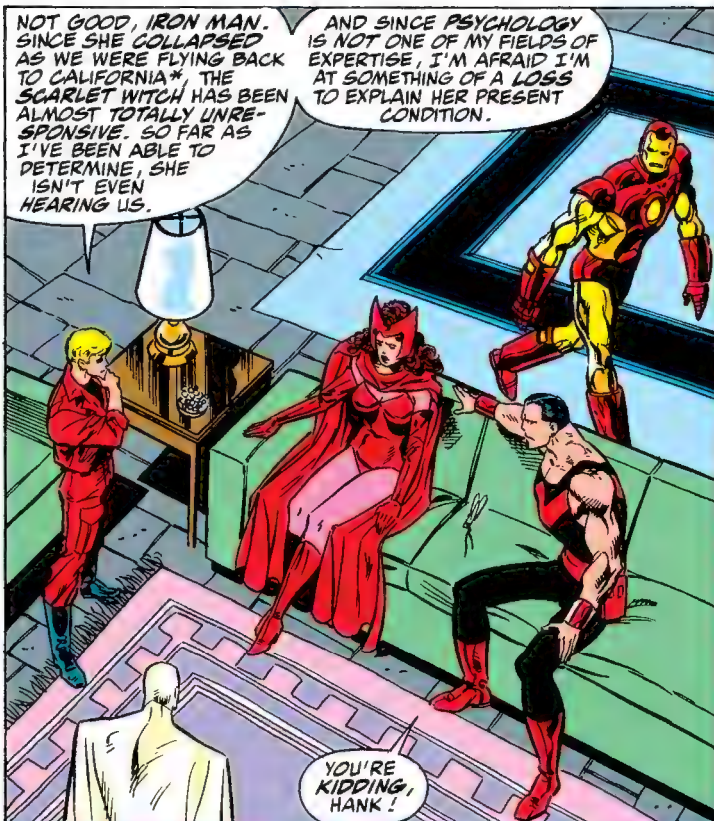
THE TIME HAS COME TO LOOK IN ONCE AGAIN ON THOSE WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS THE INSPIRATION FOR THESE MACHINATIONS.



BEGINNING HERE... AT THE AVENGERS' WEST COAST COMPOUND...

HOW IS SHE, DOCTOR PYM?





NOT GOOD, IRON MAN. SINCE SHE COLLAPSED AS WE WERE FLYING BACK TO CALIFORNIA\* THE SCARLET WITCH HAS BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY UNRESPONSIVE. SO FAR AS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, SHE ISN'T EVEN HEARING US.

AND SINCE PSYCHOLOGY IS NOT ONE OF MY FIELDS OF EXPERTISE, I'M AFRAID I'M AT SOMETHING OF A LOSS TO EXPLAIN HER PRESENT CONDITION.

YOU'RE KIDDING, HANK!

\* RIGHT AFTER THIS YEAR'S FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL.-- HOWARD M.



LOOK AT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO WANDA IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS!

FIRST HER HUSBAND WAS KIDNAPED AND DISASSEMBLED, HIS MEMORY AND PERSONALITY ERASED!

THEN WE FOUND OUT HE WASN'T THE 1940'S HUMAN TORCH, AS WE'D LONG BELIEVED!

THEN THEIR CHILDREN WERE TAKEN BY MASTER PANDEMONIUM, AND TURNED OUT TO BE NOT REAL CHILDREN AT ALL, BUT MANIFESTATIONS OF WANDA'S ABILITY TO WARP REALITY! \*

\* ALL IN ABOUT A YEARS WORTH OF CONTINUITY IN AVENGERS WEST COAST.--H.M.



AND THEN, RIGHT ON TOP OF THAT LAST BOMBHELL, SHE GETS CAPTURED BY THE DEVIANT PRIEST-KING GHAIIR, WHO BRAIN-WASHES HER INTO BECOMING ONE OF THE BRIDES OF SET! \*

\* IN THE ATLANTIS ATTACKS STORYLINE IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUALS.-- HOWARD AGAIN



TRUE, WONDER MAN. ALL VERY TRUE. WANDA'S LIFE HAS BEEN IN TURMOIL FOR SOME TIME NOW.

BUT SHE SEEMED TO BE BEARING UP UNDER THE STRAIN QUITE WELL.

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR HER NOW.

NO?  
WELL, I DO!

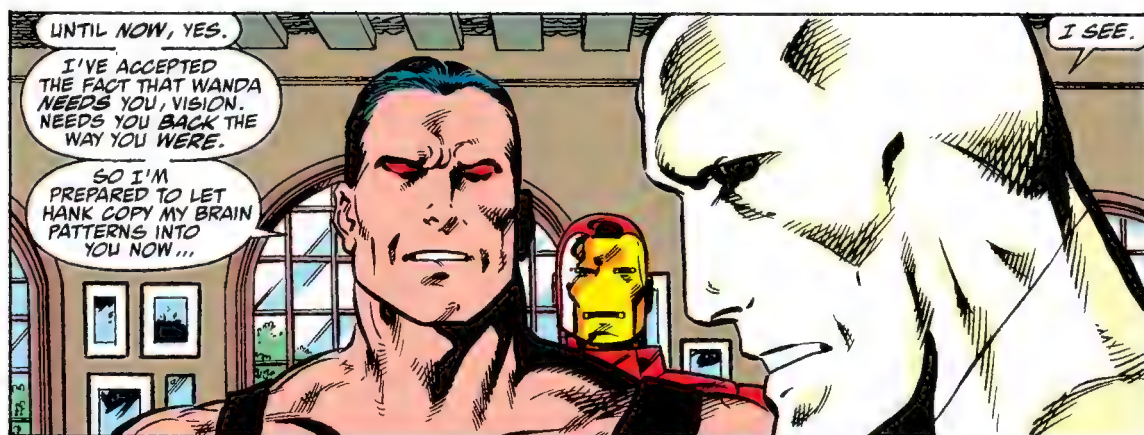


VISION... YOUR PERSONALITY WAS BASED ON A TRACING OF MY BRAIN PATTERNS.

UNTIL NOW, FOR REASONS OF MY OWN, I'VE REFUSED TO LET HANK RECOPY THOSE PATTERNS AND USE THEM TO RESTORE YOU TO NORMAL.

UNTIL NOW, SIMON?





UNTIL NOW, YES.

I'VE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT WANDA NEEDS YOU, VISION. NEEDS YOU BACK THE WAY YOU WERE.

SO I'M PREPARED TO LET HANK COPY MY BRAIN PATTERNS INTO YOU NOW...

I SEE.

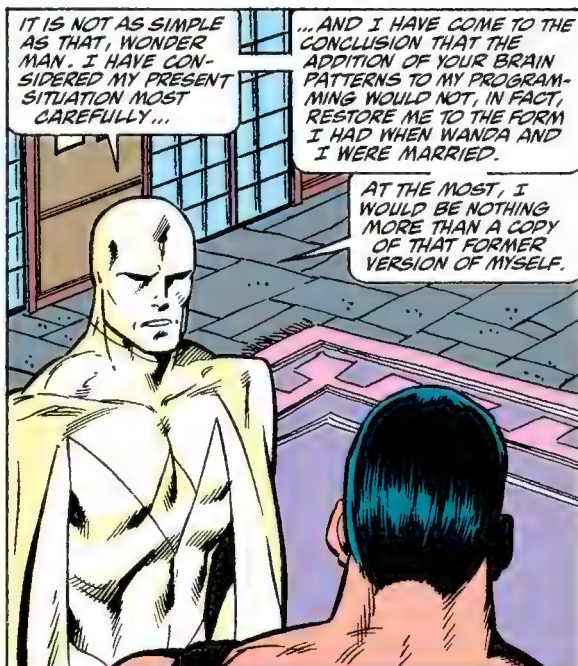


SIMON... ARE YOU SURE? YOU LOVE WANDA.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SURRENDER YOUR CHANCE WITH HER? ARE YOU SURE THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

MORE RIGHT THAN THE WAY I'VE BEEN BEHAVING, WASP.

WHATEVER MY PERSONAL FEELINGS IN THE MATTER, THE VISION IS WANDA'S HUSBAND. I HAVE NO BUSINESS STANDING IN THE WAY OF THEIR HAPPINESS.



IT IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT, WONDER MAN. I HAVE CONSIDERED MY PRESENT SITUATION MOST CAREFULLY...

...AND I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ADDITION OF YOUR BRAIN PATTERNS TO MY PROGRAMMING WOULD NOT, IN FACT, RESTORE ME TO THE FORM I HAD WHEN WANDA AND I WERE MARRIED.

AT THE MOST, I WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN A COPY OF THAT FORMER VERSION OF MYSELF.

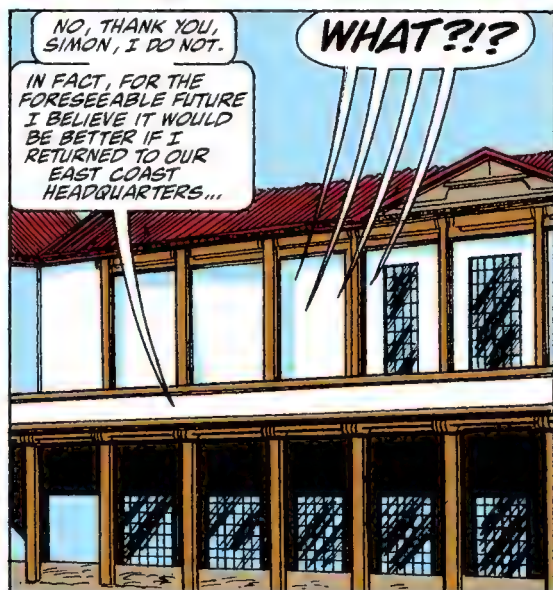


AND AS A COPY I WOULD BE NO MORE THE TRUE ENTITY THAN A PHONOGRAPH RECORD IS TRULY THE SINGER.

THEN...

JUST WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, VISION?

THAT YOU DON'T WANT MY BRAIN PATTERNS?

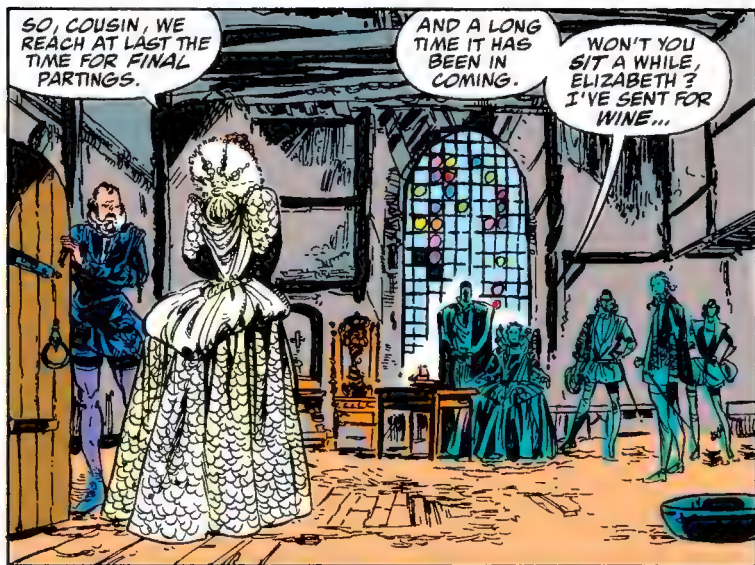


NO, THANK YOU, SIMON, I DO NOT.

IN FACT, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I RETURNED TO OUR EAST COAST HEADQUARTERS...

WHAT?!?









MY LADY ELIZABETH.

IT IS TIME...

AND ARE YOU IN SUCH A RUSH TO SEE AN END TO THE LINE OF TUDOR, CARDINAL?

THE YEARS HAVE PLODDED TO THIS DAY. LET THE SECONDS TICK BY JUST AS SLOWLY.

MISTRESS BELLE... MISTRESS LETTICE... ATTEND US.

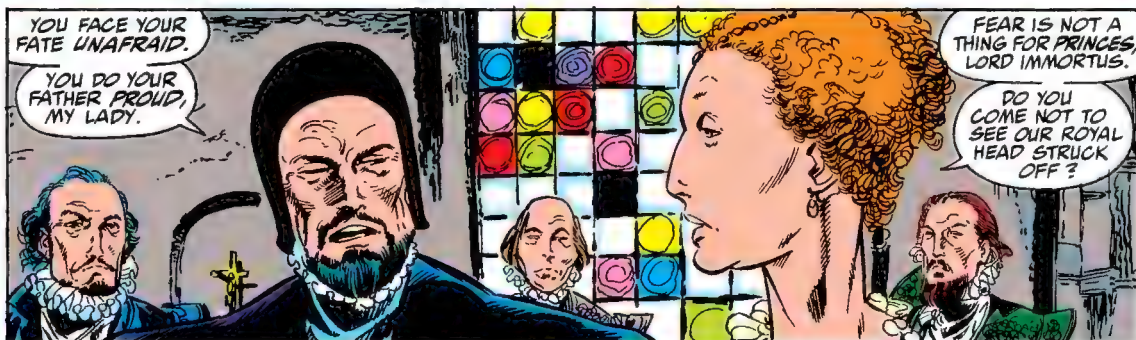


OH, MAJESTY!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE IT COME TO THIS!

AND YET... SOMEHOW WE ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD. THIS GOWN WERE WE WEARING WHEN THE MEN OF STUART CAME TO FETCH US HERE.

WE KEPT IT AGAINST THIS DAY, THAT ALL OF ENGLAND MIGHT SEE HOW THE DAUGHTER OF KING HENRY DIES...



YOU FACE YOUR FATE UNAFRAID.

YOU DO YOUR FATHER PROUD, MY LADY.

FEAR IS NOT A THING FOR PRINCES, LORD IMMORTUS.

DO YOU COME NOT TO SEE OUR ROYAL HEAD STRUCK OFF?

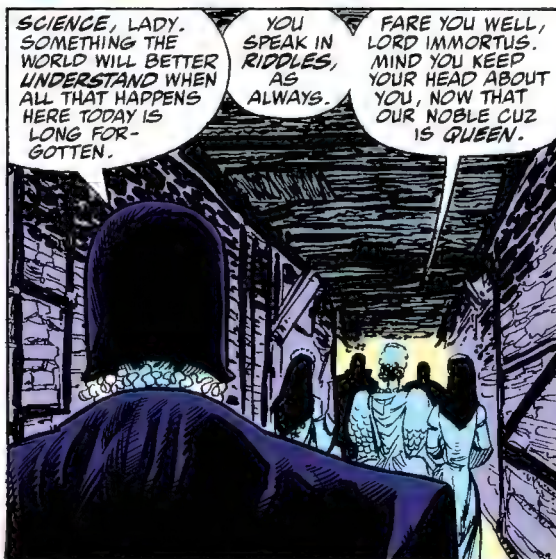


NO, LADY. AS EVER, I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS TO ATTEND ELSEWHERE.

YOU ALWAYS WERE A PUZZLEMENT TO US, IMMORTUS. YOU COME AND GO QUITE LIKE THE THIEF IN THE NIGHT.

AND WE REMEMBER YOU FROM OUR DAYS AS A GIRL IN OUR FATHER'S COURT. WE WOULD NOT SAY YOU'VE AGED ONE WHIT SINCE HE DIED.

WITCHERY?

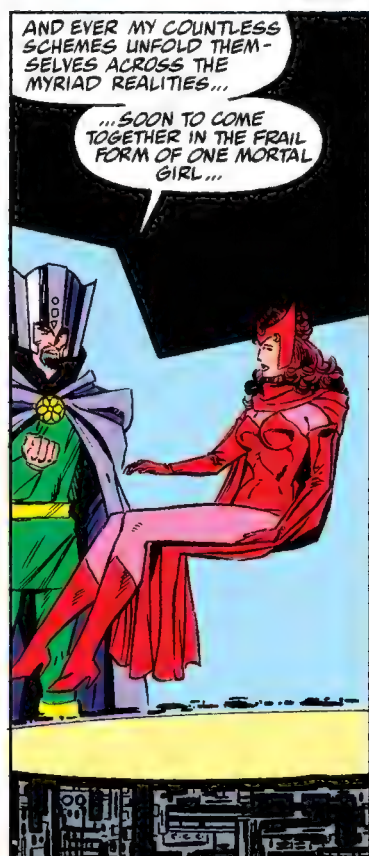
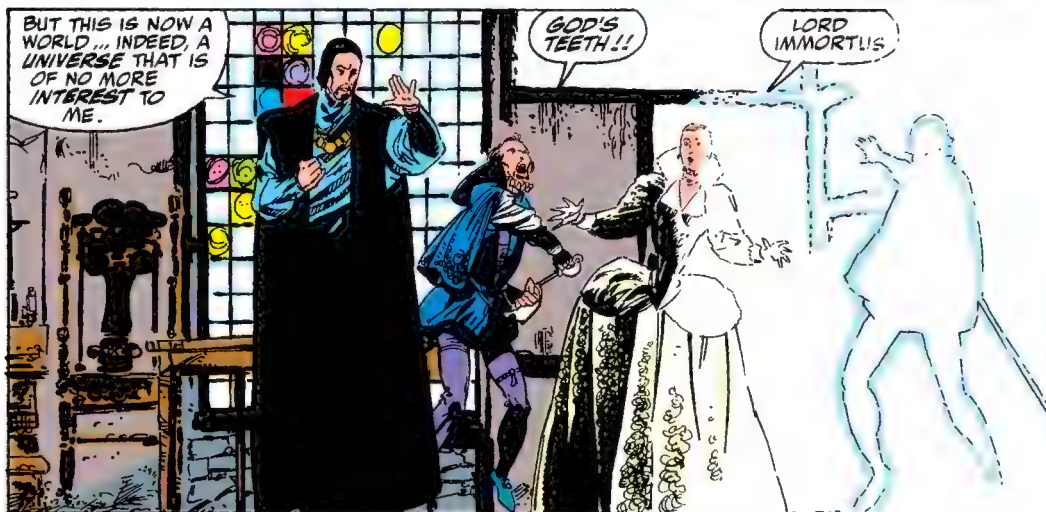
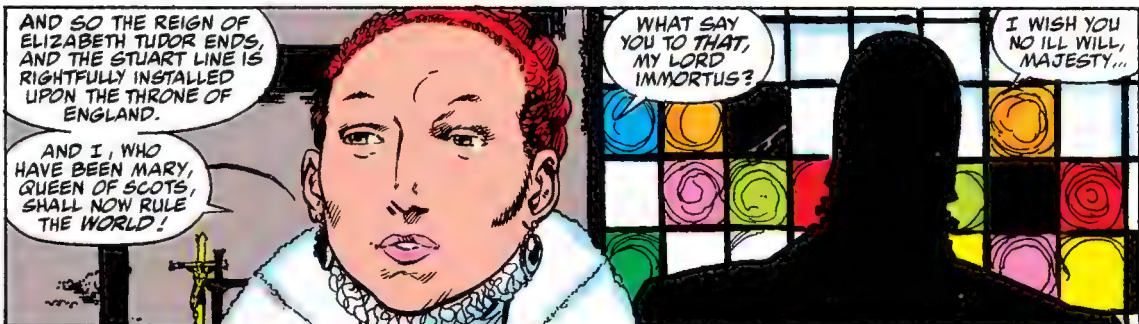


SCIENCE, LADY. SOMETHING THE WORLD WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND WHEN ALL THAT HAPPENS HERE TODAY IS LONG FORGOTTEN.

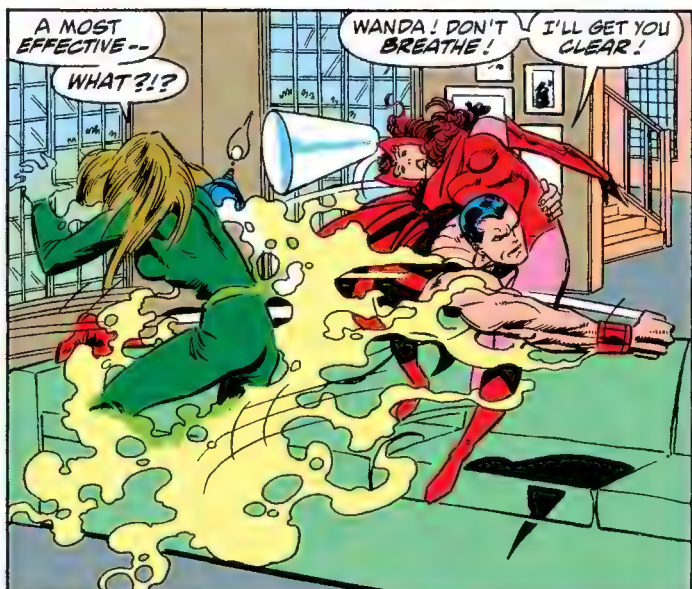
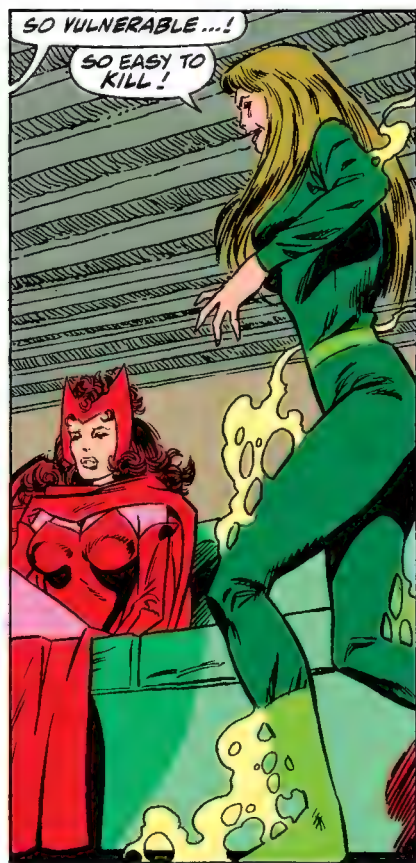
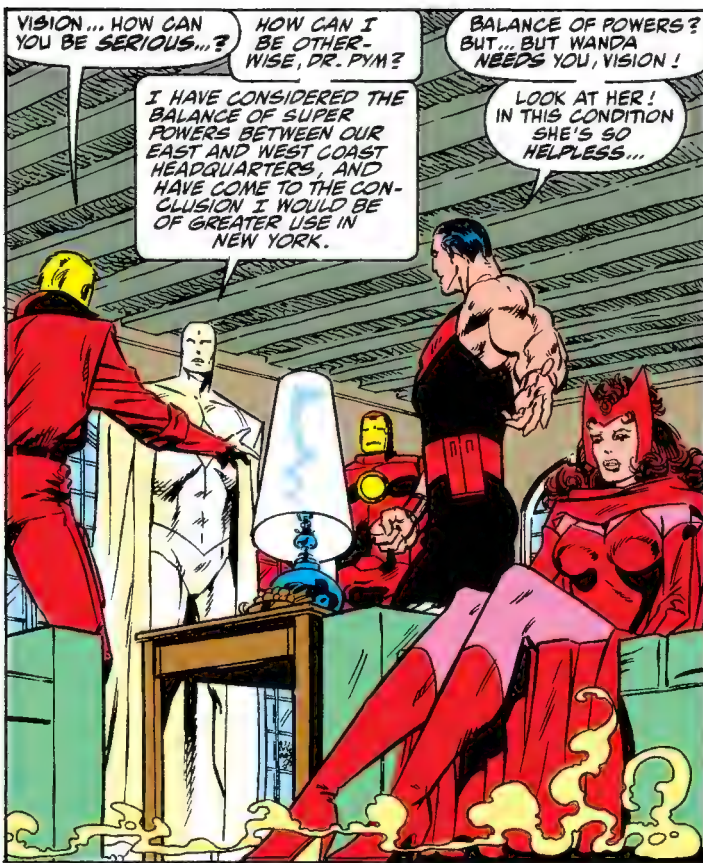
YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES, AS ALWAYS.

FARE YOU WELL, LORD IMMORTUS. MIND YOU KEEP YOUR HEAD ABOUT YOU, NOW THAT OUR NOBLE CUZ IS QUEEN.

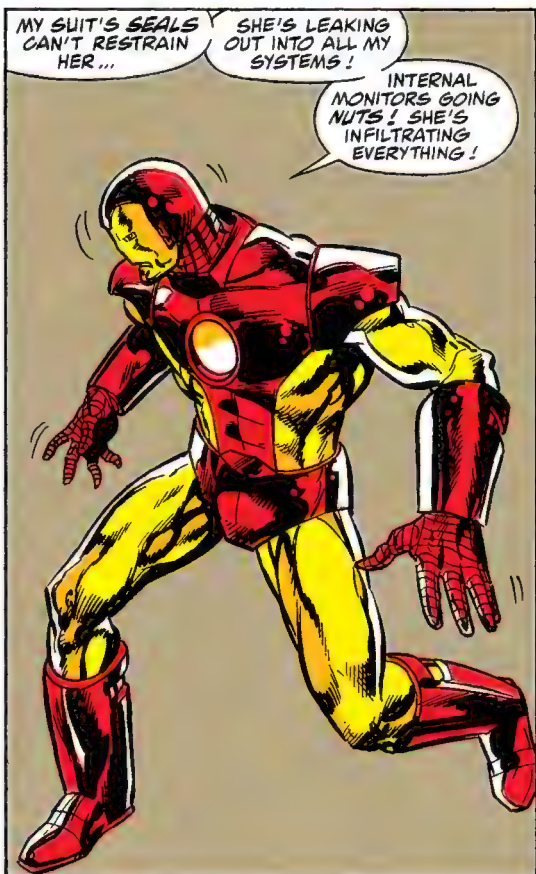




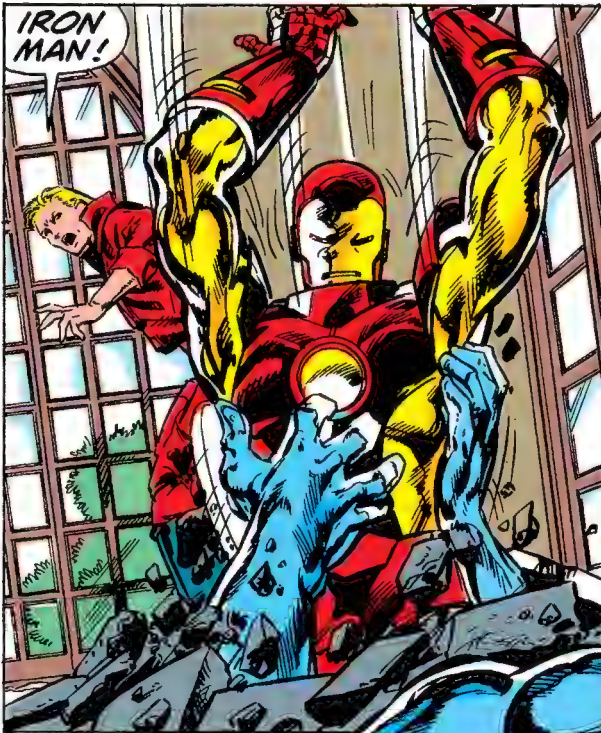




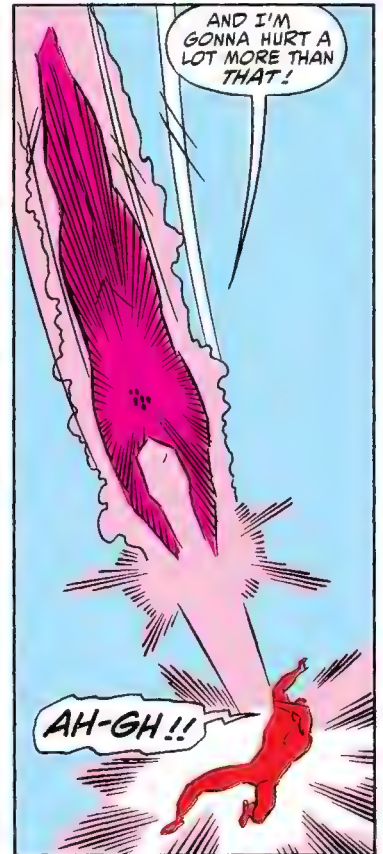
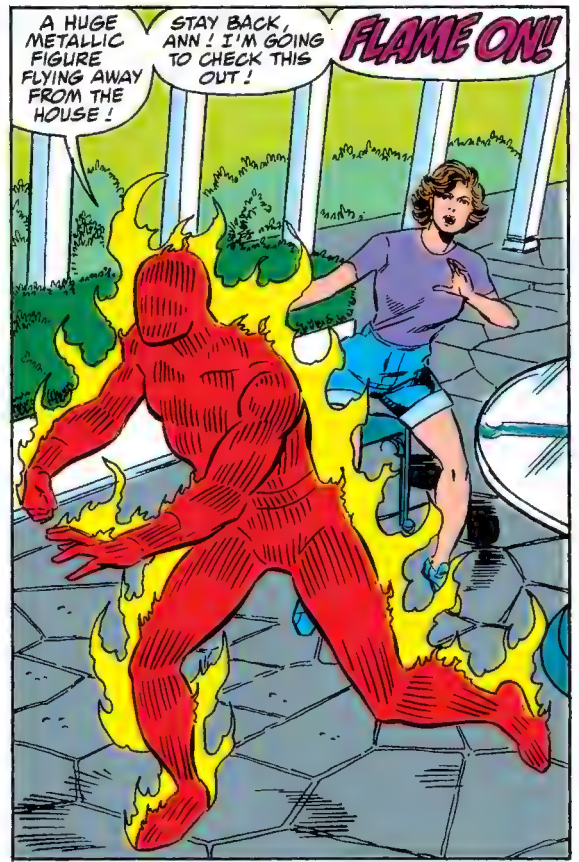




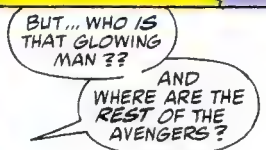
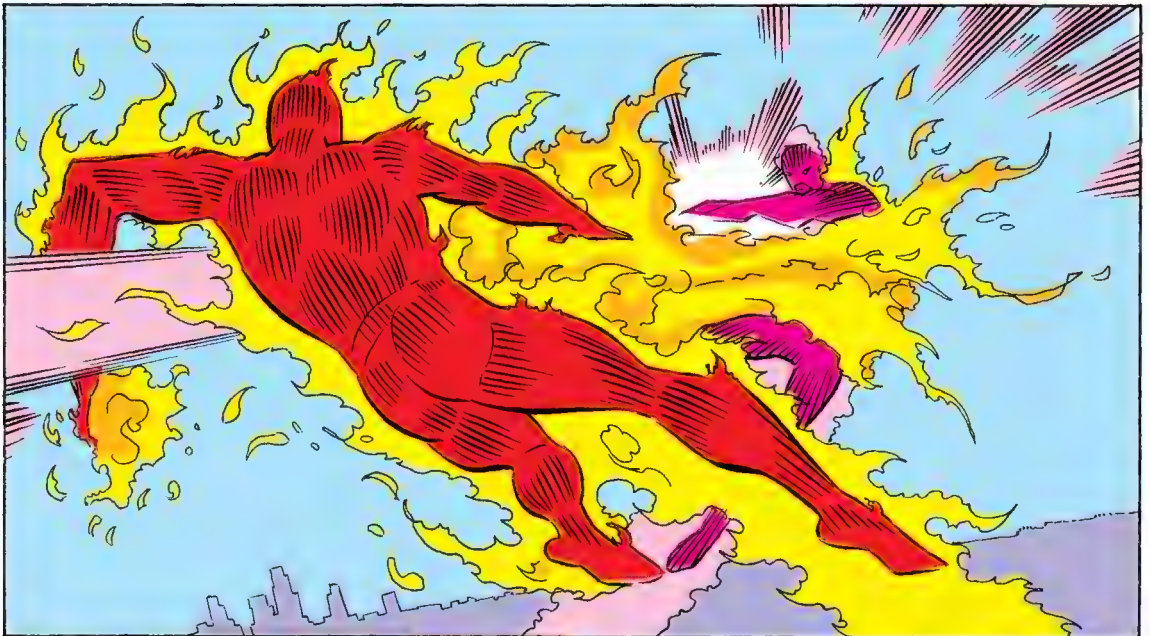
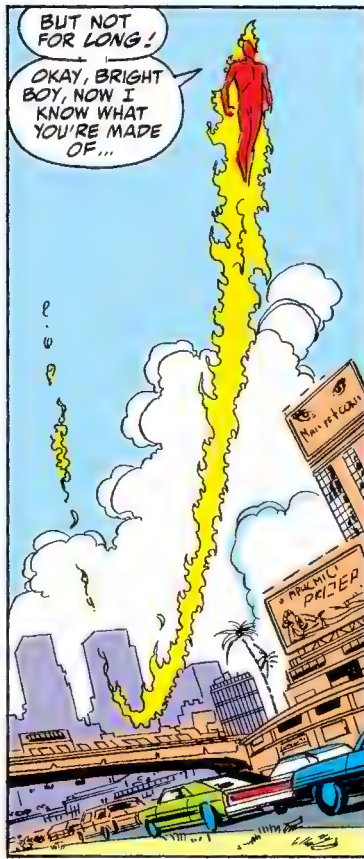




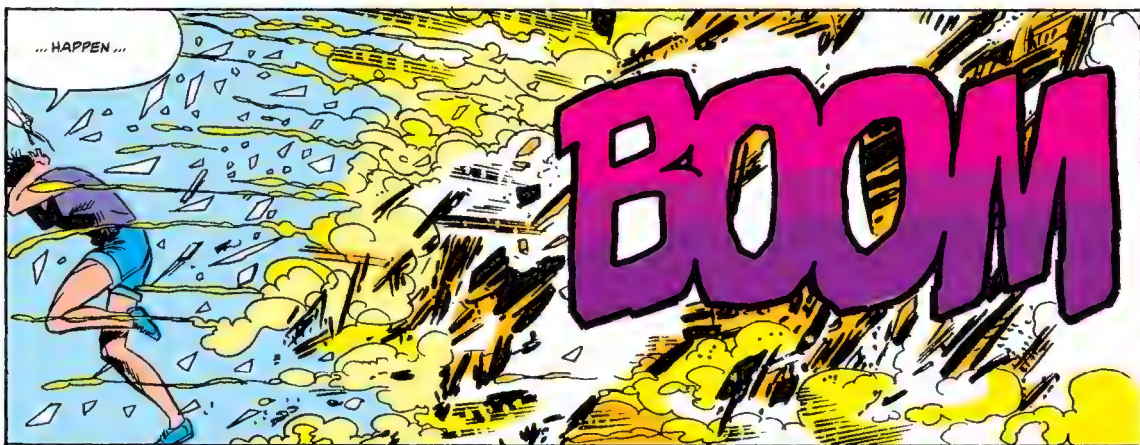
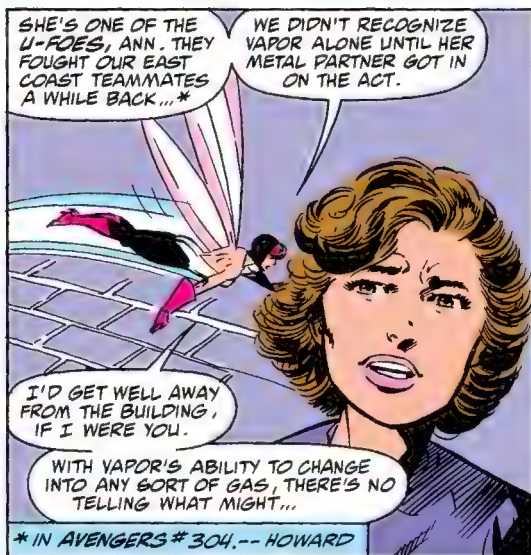
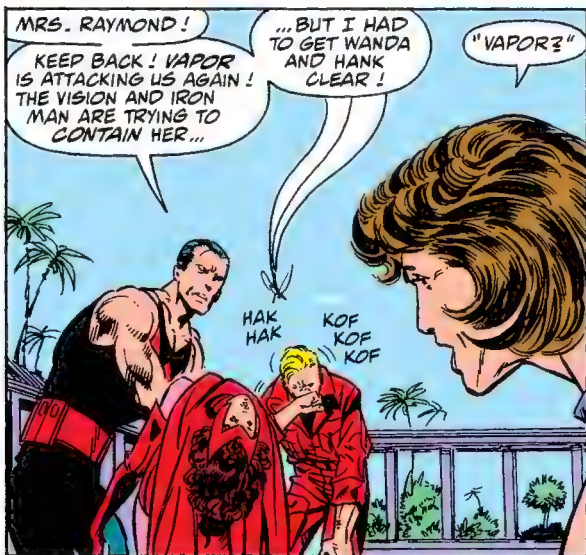
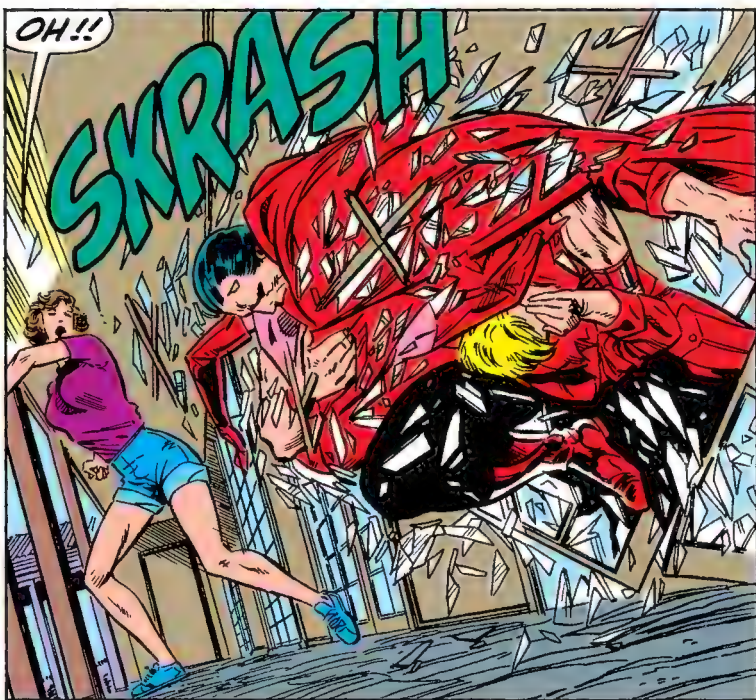




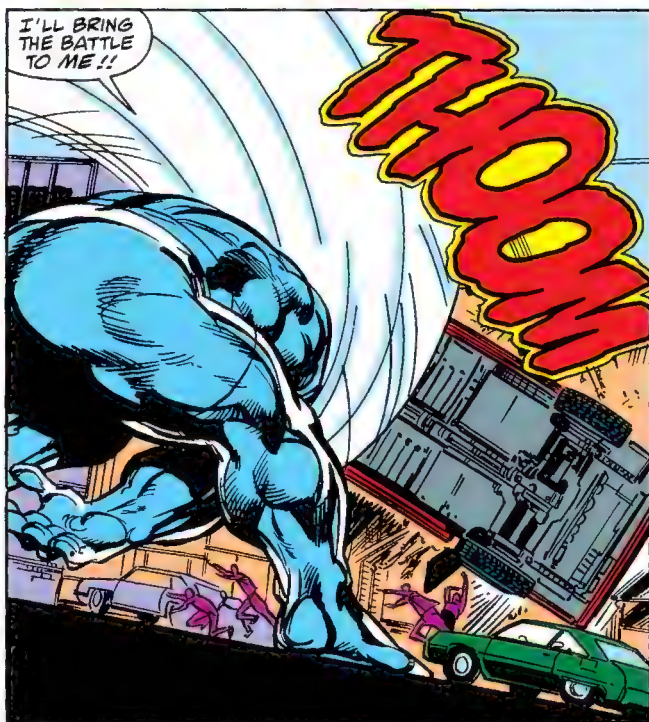








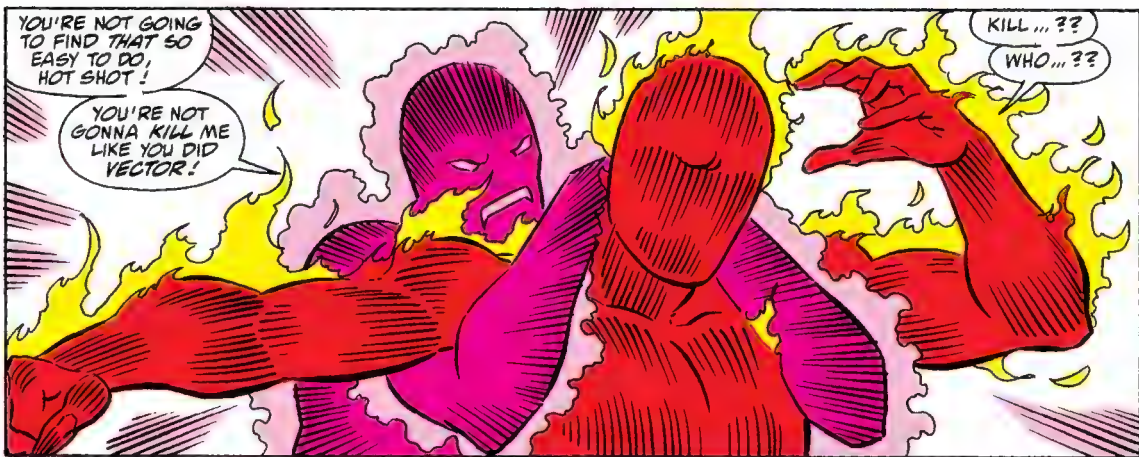








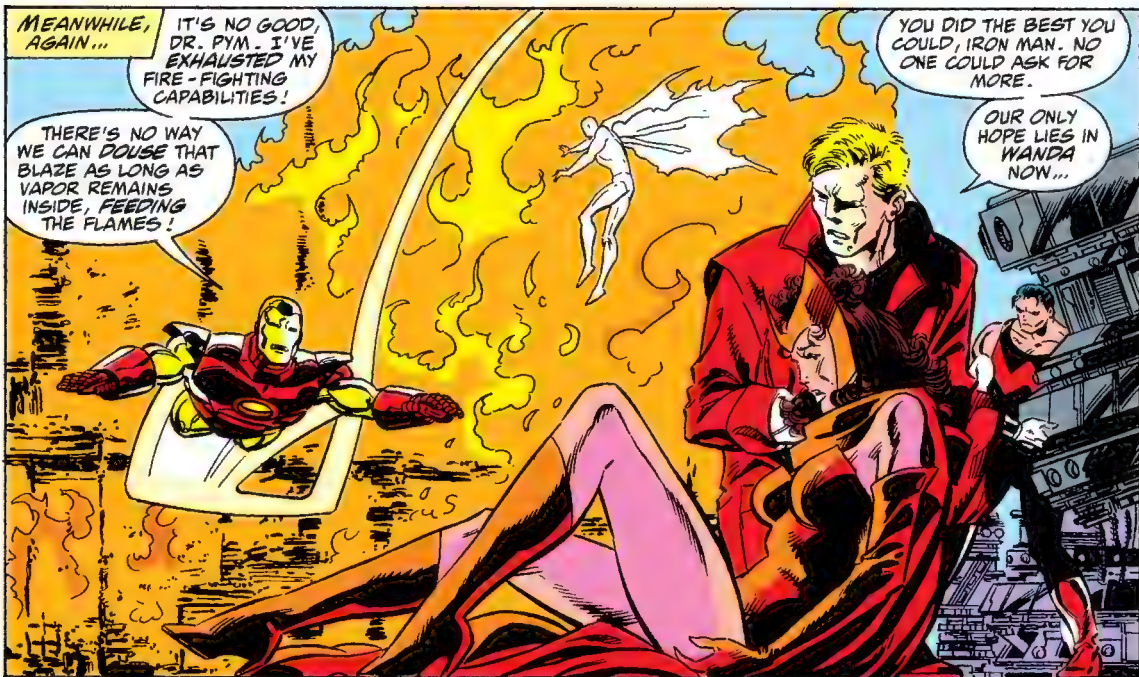




YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND THAT SO EASY TO DO, HOT SHOT!

KILL ... ??  
WHO ... ??

YOU'RE NOT GONNA KILL ME LIKE YOU DID VECTOR!



MEANWHILE, AGAIN ...

IT'S NO GOOD, DR. PYM - I'VE EXHAUSTED MY FIRE-FIGHTING CAPABILITIES!

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DOUSE THAT BLAZE AS LONG AS VAPOR REMAINS INSIDE, FEEDING THE FLAMES!

YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD, IRON MAN. NO ONE COULD ASK FOR MORE.

OUR ONLY HOPE LIES IN WANDA NOW ...



WANDA ... ??

BUT ... YOU SAID SHE WAS COMPLETELY UNRESPONSIVE ...

TO NORMAL STIMULI, YES. I DIDN'T WANT TO SUBJECT HER TO ANYTHING LIKE SHOCK THERAPY. BUT THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE THIS CRISIS SITUATION MIGHT TRIGGER INSTINCTIVE RESPONSES.



WANDA ! WANDA, CAN YOU HEAR ME ?

IT'S HANK, WANDA. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US. THE REST OF THE AVENGERS ARE IN TROUBLE!

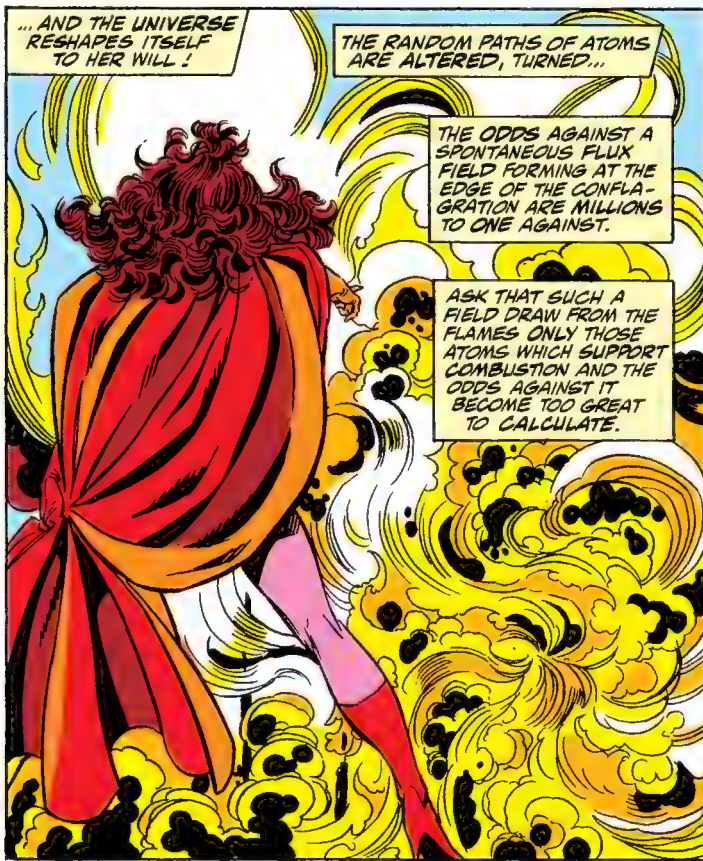
THE VISION IS IN DANGER ...

...VISION ...









... AND THE UNIVERSE  
RESHAPES ITSELF  
TO HER WILL !

THE RANDOM PATHS OF ATOMS  
ARE ALTERED, TURNED...

THE ODDS AGAINST A  
SPONTANEOUS FLUX  
FIELD FORMING AT THE  
EDGE OF THE CONFLA-  
GRATION ARE MILLIONS  
TO ONE AGAINST.

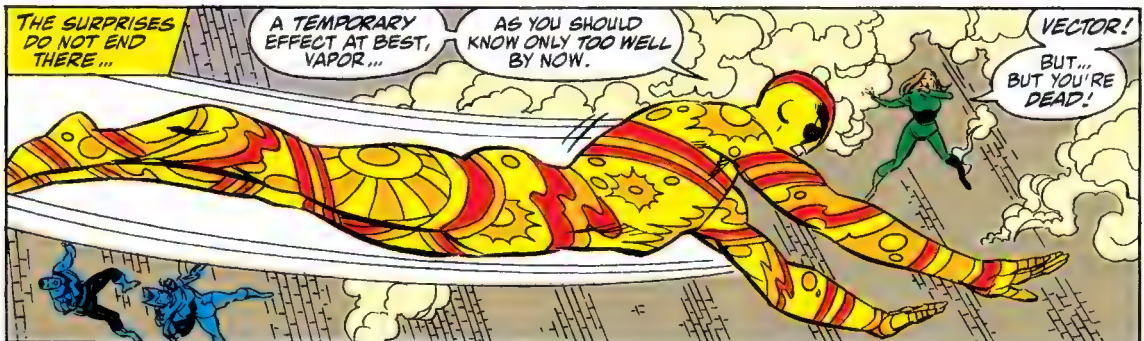
ASK THAT SUCH A  
FIELD DRAW FROM THE  
FLAMES ONLY THOSE  
ATOMS WHICH SUPPORT  
COMBUSTION AND THE  
ODDS AGAINST IT  
BECOME TOO GREAT  
TO CALCULATE.



NEVERTHELESS, THOUGH THIS IS NOT  
HER CONSCIOUS INTENT, IT IS  
PRECISELY THE MANIFESTATION  
OF WANDA'S POWER.

MUCH TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF  
THE WOMAN CALLED VAPOR...

WHAT IN...??  
I'M HUMAN  
AGAIN!

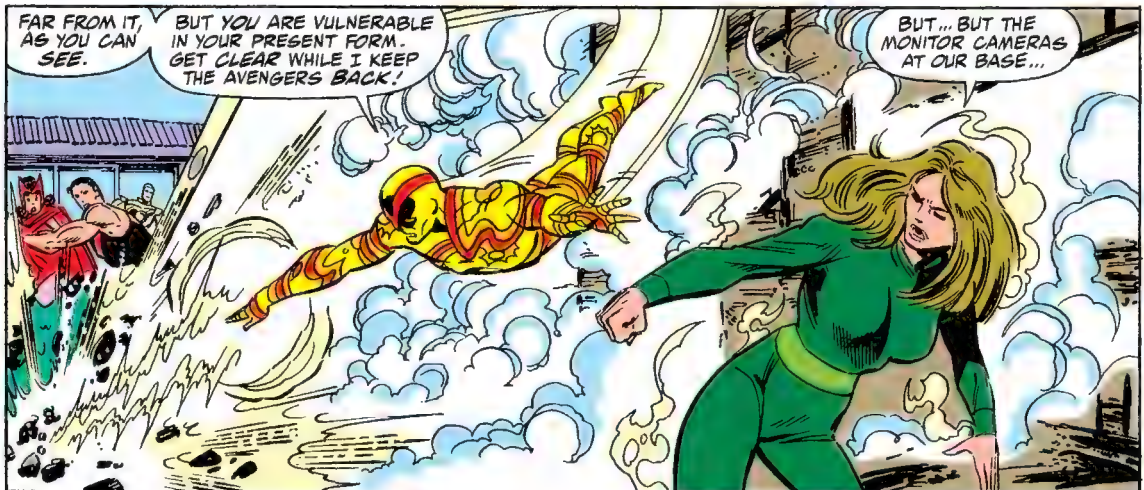


THE SURPRISES  
DO NOT END  
THERE...

A TEMPORARY  
EFFECT AT BEST,  
VAPOR...

AS YOU SHOULD  
KNOW ONLY TOO WELL  
BY NOW.

VECTOR!  
BUT...  
BUT YOU'RE  
DEAD!

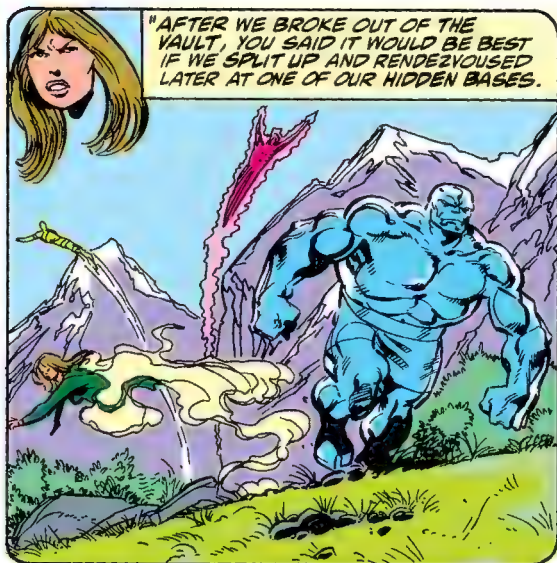


FAR FROM IT,  
AS YOU CAN  
SEE.

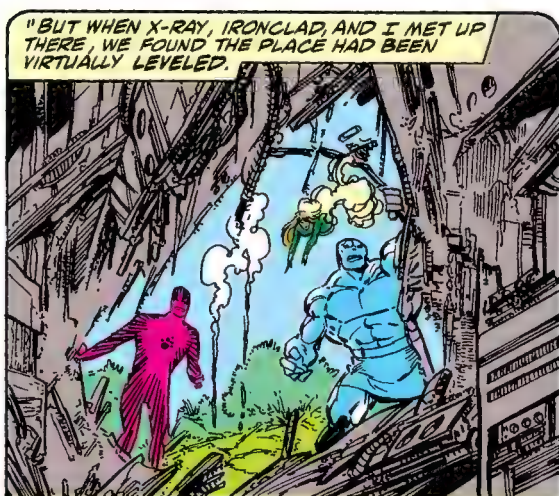
BUT YOU ARE VULNERABLE  
IN YOUR PRESENT FORM.  
GET CLEAR WHILE I KEEP  
THE AVENGERS BACK!

BUT... BUT THE  
MONITOR CAMERAS  
AT OUR BASE...



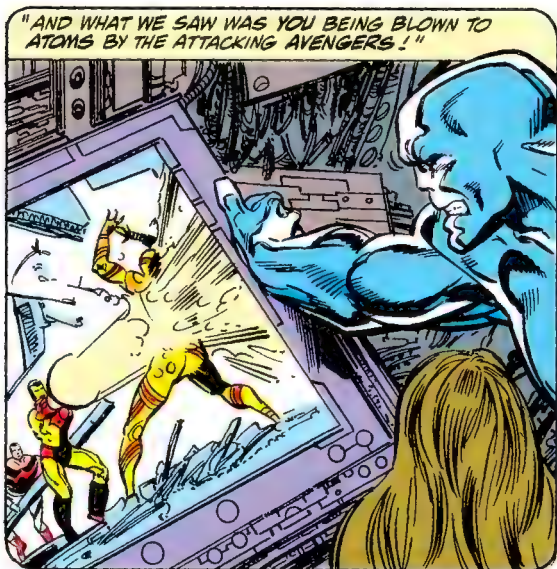


"AFTER WE BROKE OUT OF THE VAULT, YOU SAID IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE SPLIT UP AND RENDEZVOUSED LATER AT ONE OF OUR HIDDEN BASES."



"BUT WHEN X-RAY, IRONCLAD, AND I MET UP THERE, WE FOUND THE PLACE HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY LEVELLED."

"LUCKILY, ONE OF THE AUTOMATIC MONITORS WAS STILL FUNCTIONING, AND WE WERE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED..."



"AND WHAT WE SAW WAS YOU BEING BLOWN TO ATOMS BY THE ATTACKING AVENGERS!"



WHICH I SAW MYSELF, WHEN I FINALLY ARRIVED AT OUR PRE-ARRANGED MEETING PLACE.

I WAS DELAYED EN ROUTE JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR THE THREE OF YOU TO DECIDE TO SEEK IMMEDIATE VENGEANCE ON THE WEST COAST BRANCH OF THE AVENGERS. THIS I ALSO SAW ON THE MONITOR.



WITHOUT ME TO FORMULATE A PROPER PLAN OF ATTACK, HOWEVER, YOU WERE CERTAIN TO FAIL, AND WIND UP BEING SHIPPED BACK TO THE VAULT.

DON'T BE SO SURE OF THAT, UTRECHT!

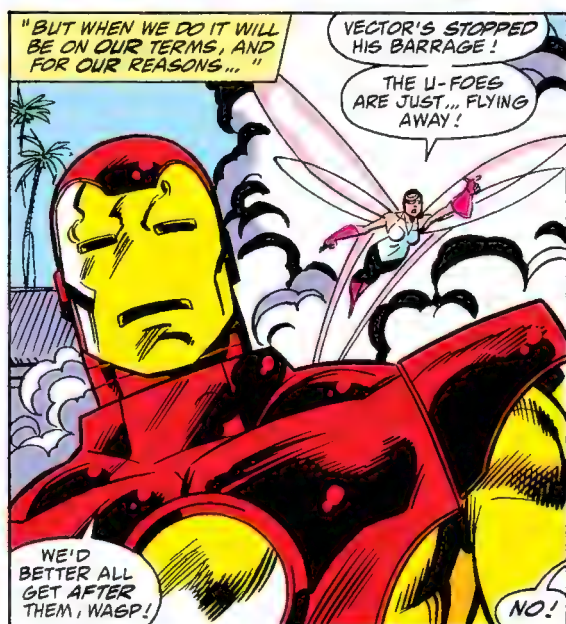
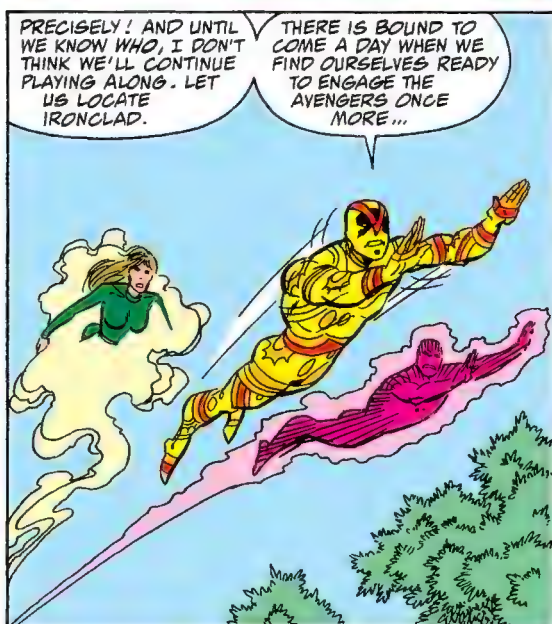
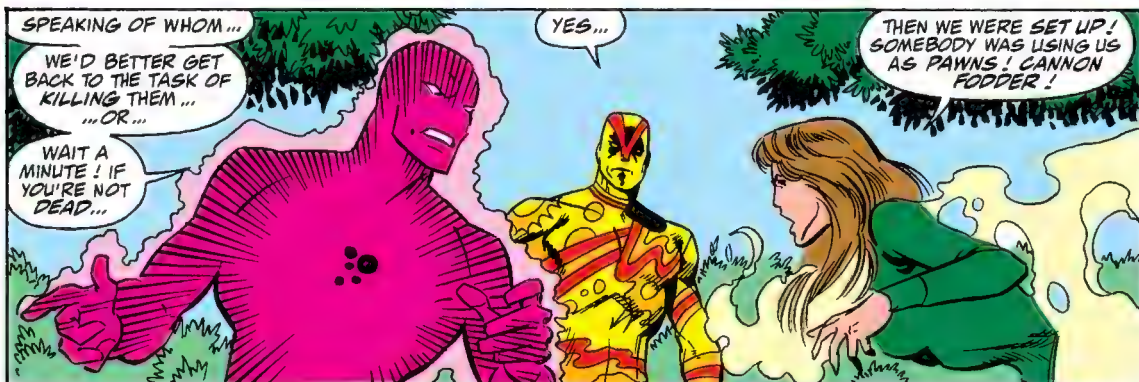


I'VE MANAGED TO DEAL WITH JOHNNY STORM WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

X-RAY...

BUT... THAT ISN'T THE HUMAN TORCH... ??





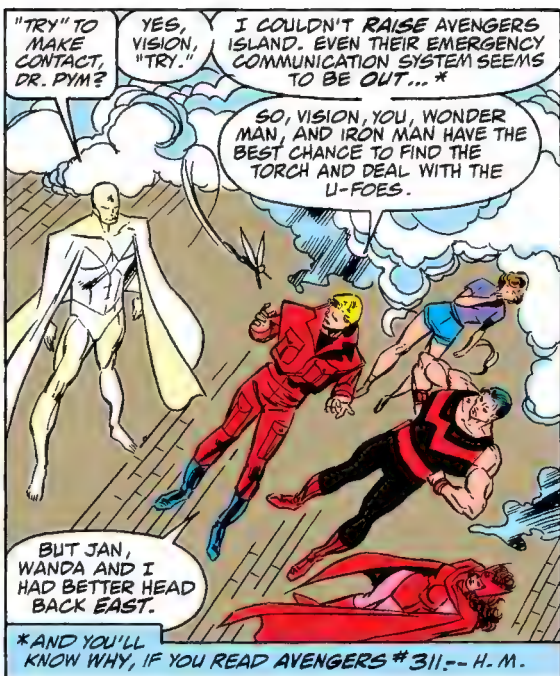




HANK? WHAT'S WRONG, LOVER? WHY SHOULDN'T WE GO AFTER THE U-FOES?

WE SHOULD, JAN. BUT NOT ALL OF US!

I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE LULL PROVIDED BY THEIR RETREAT TO TRY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH OUR EAST COAST HQ FOR FURTHER DATA ON THE U-FOES...



"TRY" TO MAKE CONTACT, DR. PYM?

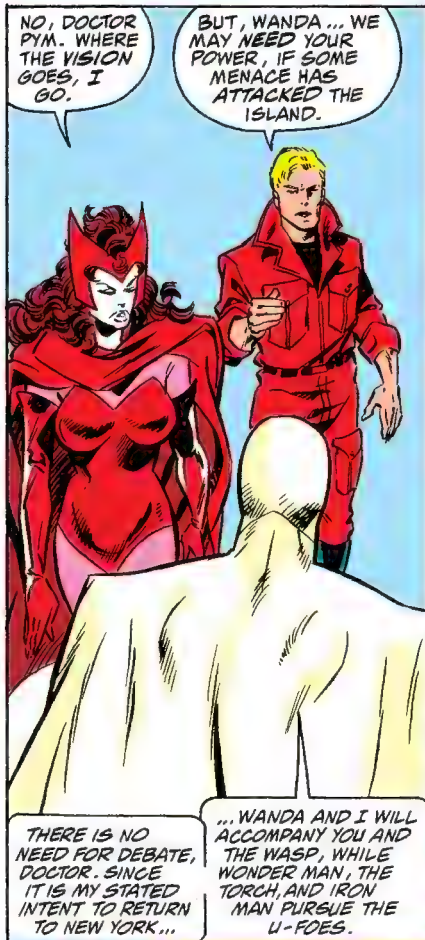
YES, VISION, "TRY."

I COULDN'T RAISE AVENGERS ISLAND. EVEN THEIR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM SEEMS TO BE OUT... \*

SO, VISION, YOU, WONDER MAN, AND IRON MAN HAVE THE BEST CHANCE TO FIND THE TORCH AND DEAL WITH THE U-FOES.

BUT JAN, WANDA AND I HAD BETTER HEAD BACK EAST.

\*AND YOU'LL KNOW WHY, IF YOU READ AVENGERS #311.-- H. M.

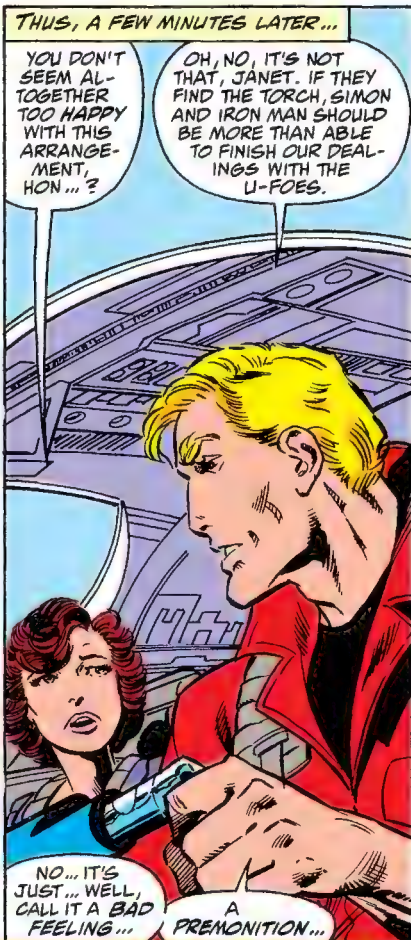


NO, DOCTOR PYM. WHERE THE VISION GOES, I GO.

BUT, WANDA... WE MAY NEED YOUR POWER, IF SOME MENACE HAS ATTACKED THE ISLAND.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR DEBATE, DOCTOR. SINCE IT IS MY STATED INTENT TO RETURN TO NEW YORK...

...WANDA AND I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU AND THE WASP, WHILE WONDER MAN, THE TORCH, AND IRON MAN PURSUE THE U-FOES.



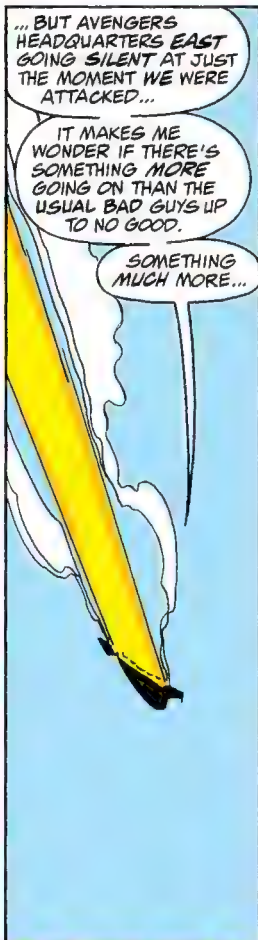
THUS, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU DON'T SEEM ALTOGETHER TOO HAPPY WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT, HON...?

OH, NO, IT'S NOT THAT, JANET. IF THEY FIND THE TORCH, SIMON AND IRON MAN SHOULD BE MORE THAN ABLE TO FINISH OUR DEALINGS WITH THE U-FOES.

NO... IT'S JUST... WELL, CALL IT A BAD FEELING...

A PREMONITION...



...BUT AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS EAST GOING SILENT AT JUST THE MOMENT WE WERE ATTACKED...

IT MAKES ME WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING MORE GOING ON THAN THE USUAL BAD GUYS UP TO NO GOOD.

SOMETHING MUCH MORE...

**NEXT ISSUE:** THE ACTS OF VENGEANCE SCENARIO CONTINUES, FIRST IN AVENGERS #312, THEN BACK HERE FOR **THE TROUBLED EARTH**



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ACTS of VENGEANCE!

# AVENGERS

AVENGERS  
PARK  
TRASHED BY  
FREEDOM  
FORCE!



RYAN FARMER



Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

**THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

# HAS THE WHOLE WORLD GONE MAD?!?



NOT THE  
WHOLE WORLD,  
WASP.

LUCKILY, SO FAR  
THE ... INSANITY SEEMS  
TO BE CONFINING ITSELF  
TO THE CONTINENTAL  
UNITED STATES.

WELL, YOU'RE  
OUR RESIDENT BRAIN-  
BOX, DR. PYM.

WHAT DO YOU  
THINK IS CAUSING ALL  
THIS CRAZINESS?

PAUL RYAN & TOM PALMER  
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JOHN BYRNE  
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CHRISTIE SCHEELE - colorist

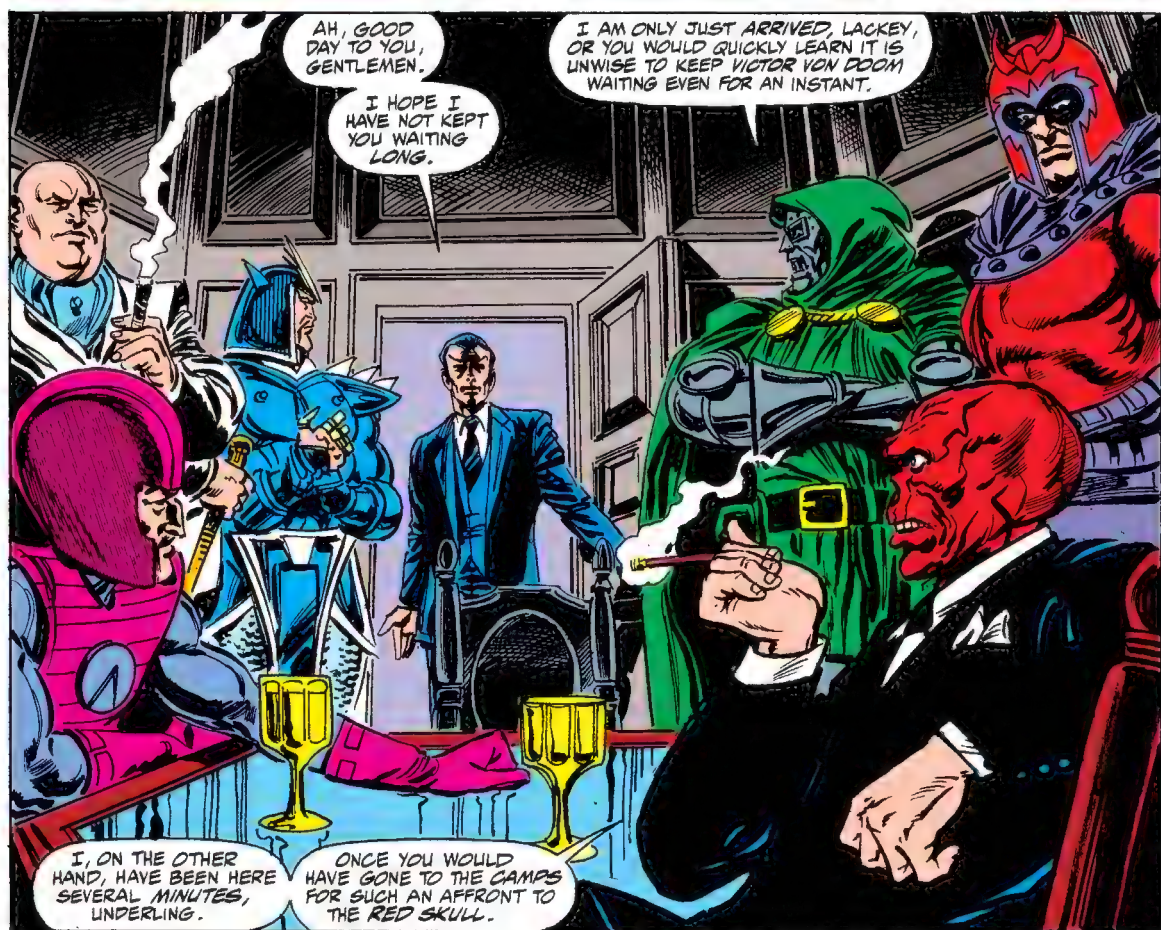
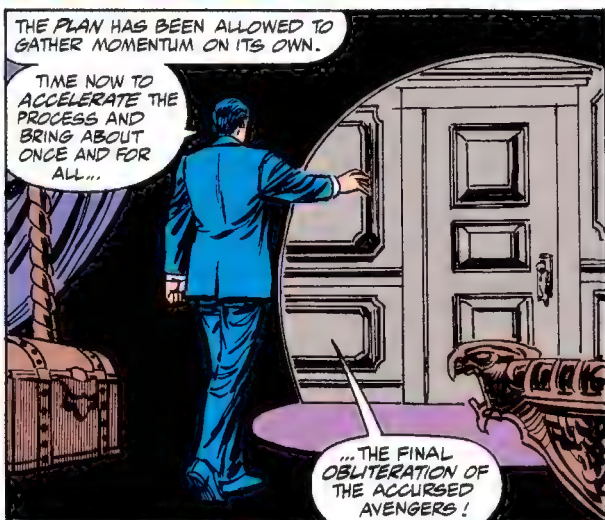
HOWARD MACKIE  
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO  
ASGARDIAN

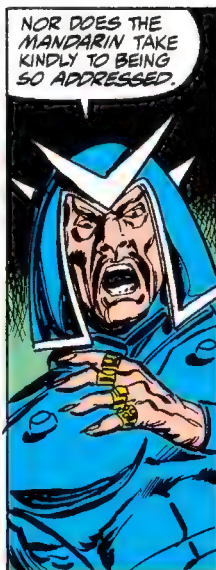




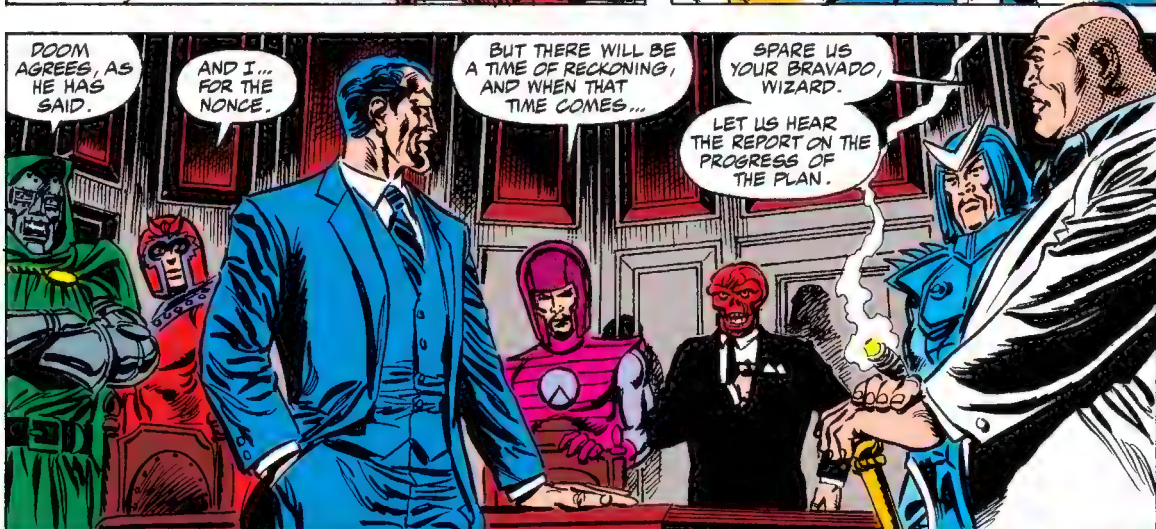




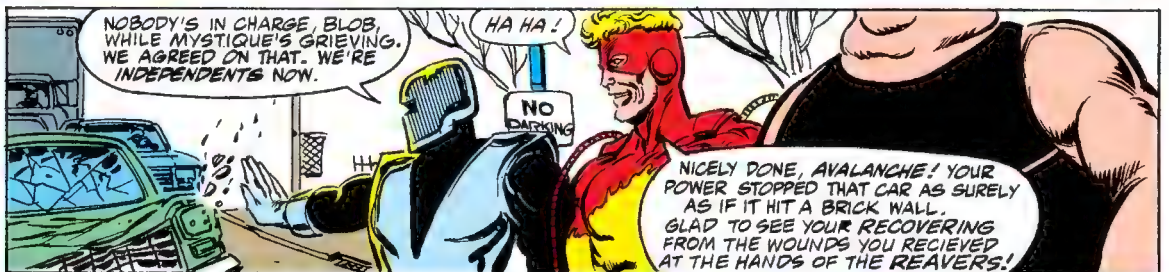
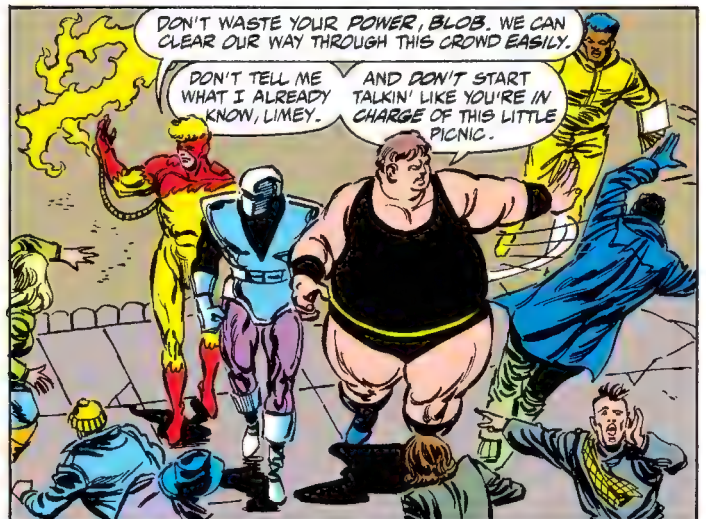
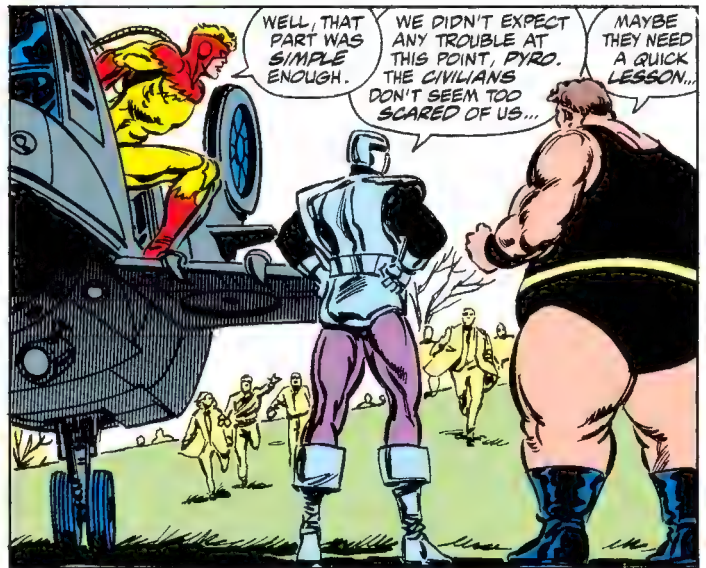














"...I'LL WAGER THEY'VE A WAY OF MONITORING THIS PARK."

HEY!

THAT TELLTALE.  
THAT'S THE SUPER-  
POWER ALERT.

SOMEBODY  
WITH SUPER-POWERS  
HAS ENTERED  
AVENGERS PARK.

WHOA! NOT  
JUST ANY OLD  
"SOMEBODY"  
EITHER, FALC!

THE BLOB...  
AVALANCHE...  
PYRO...

PUT 'EM  
ALL TOGETHER  
THEY MAKE...

...FREEDOM  
FORCE.

OR MOST OF IT, ANYWAY. I DON'T  
LIKE THE FEEL OF THIS ONE. FREEDOM  
FORCE IS COMPOSED OF KNOWN  
CRIMINALS RECRUITED TO SERVE  
OUT THEIR TIME AS GOVERNMENT  
AGENTS.

AND SINCE A LOT OF THE BAD  
NASTINESS GOING ON TOPSIDE  
INVOLVES CERTAIN HIGHLY PLACED  
GOVERNMENT TYPES SAYING  
RUDE THINGS ABOUT  
SUPERHEROES...

...THIS COULD WELL  
BE AN OFFICIAL  
VISIT.

I AGREE WITH THE SCARLET WITCH, IT IS HIGHLY  
UNLIKELY THESE THREE MEMBERS OF FREEDOM FORCE  
WOULD HAVE ARRIVED HERE AT THIS MOMENT, UN-  
ANNOUNCED, UNINVITED, WITHOUT SOME OFFICIAL  
PURPOSE.

IF YOU WISH ME  
TO CALCULATE THE  
PRECISE ODDS...

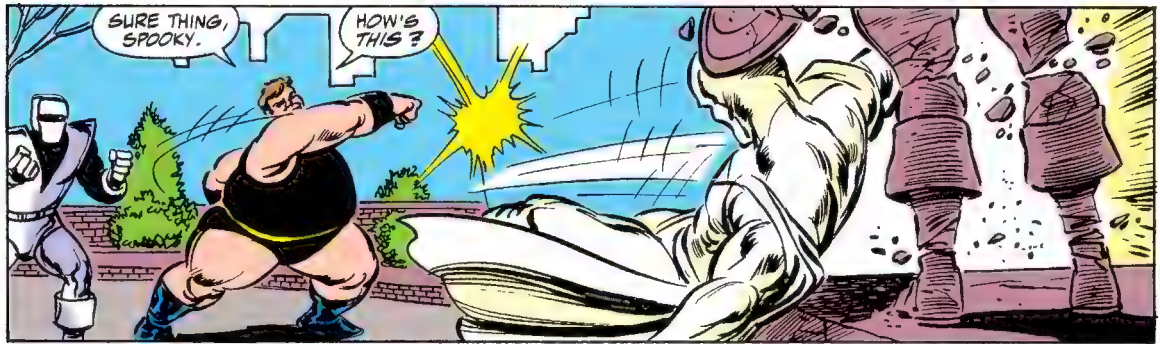
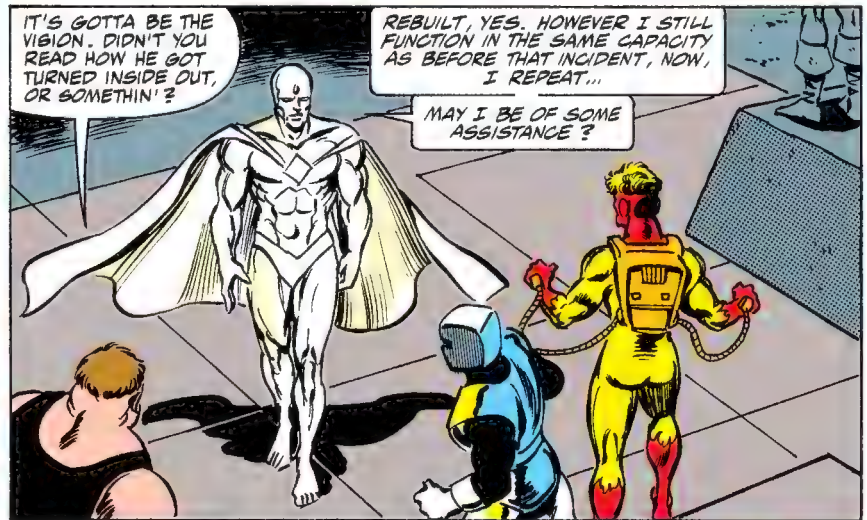
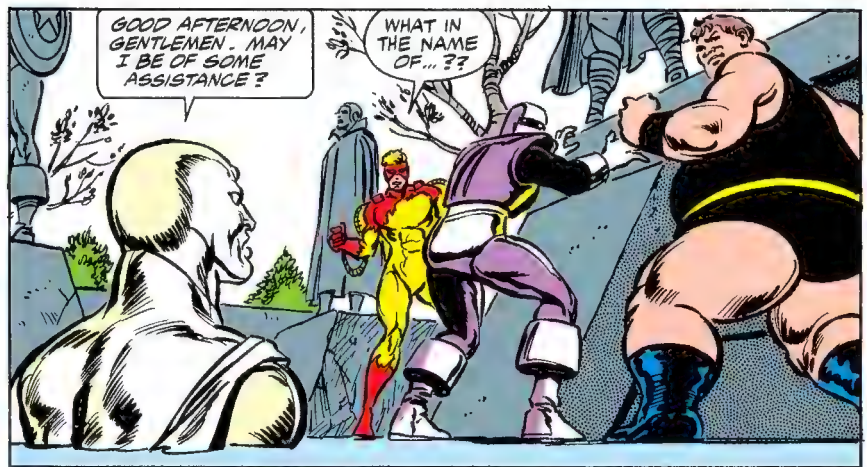
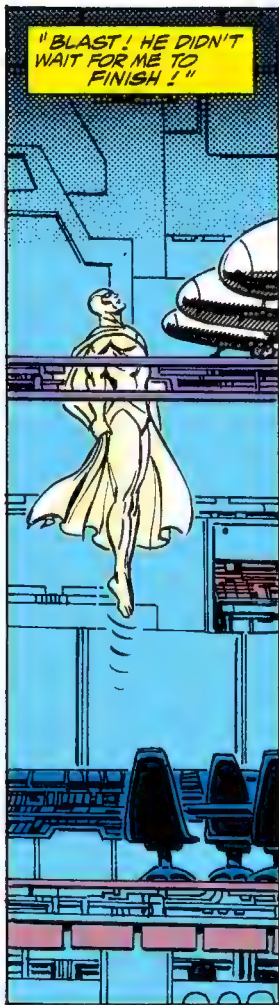
I DON'T THINK THAT  
WILL BE NECESSARY,  
VISION. THANKS ALL  
THE SAME.

THEN IT WOULD SEEM  
THE MOST EFFICACIOUS  
WAY TO DEAL WITH  
THEIR ARRIVAL WOULD  
BE A DIRECT ONE.

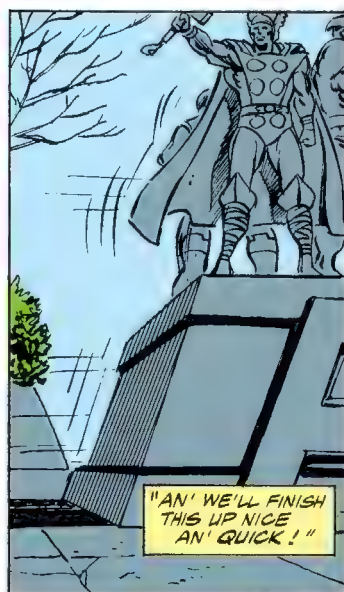
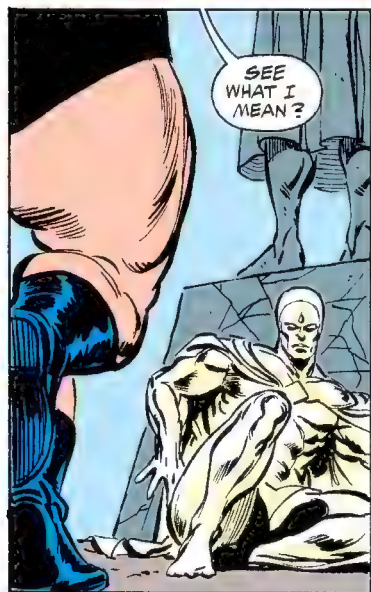
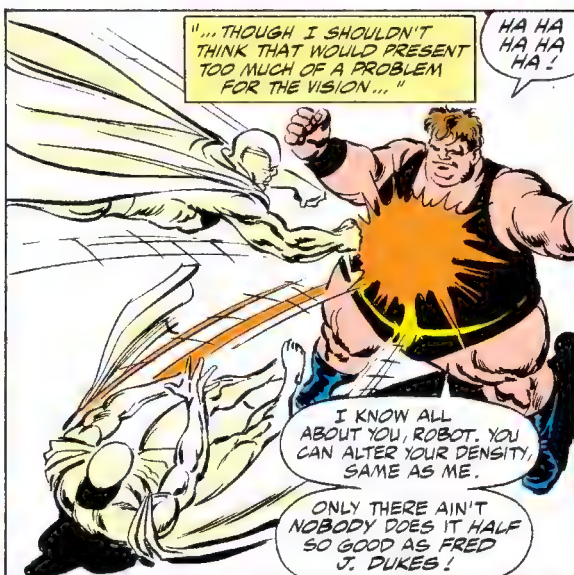
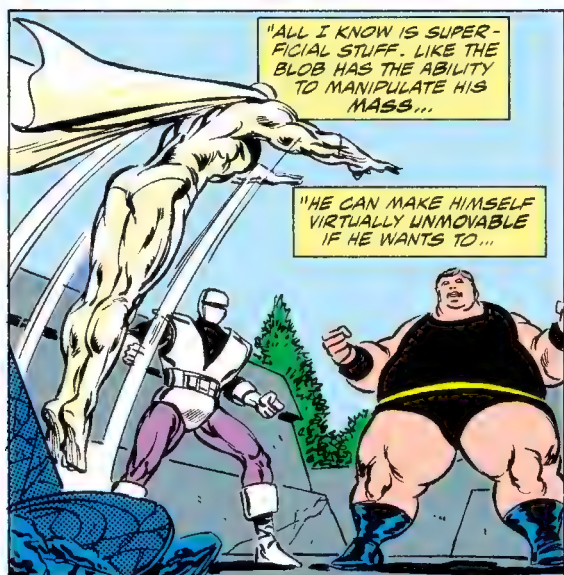
IN MY INTANGIBLE FORM  
I CAN REACH THE SUR-  
FACE IN SECONDS, BY  
PASSING THROUGH THE  
INTERVENING LEVELS OF  
THIS UNDERGROUND  
COMPLEX.

VISION...  
I DON'T  
KNOW...

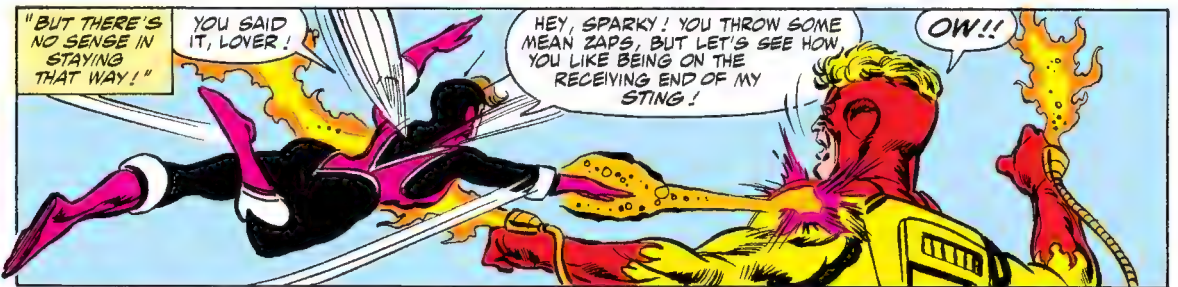
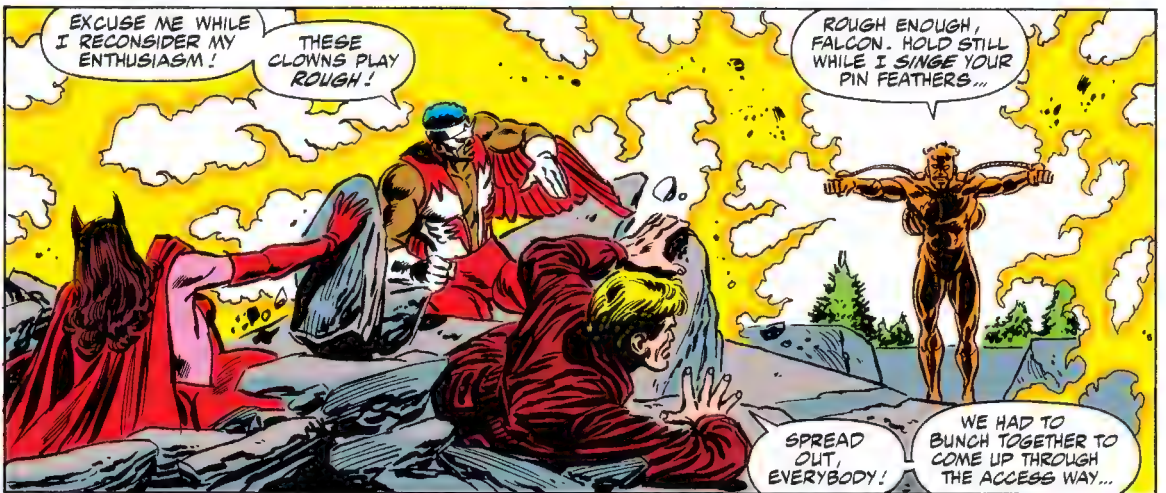
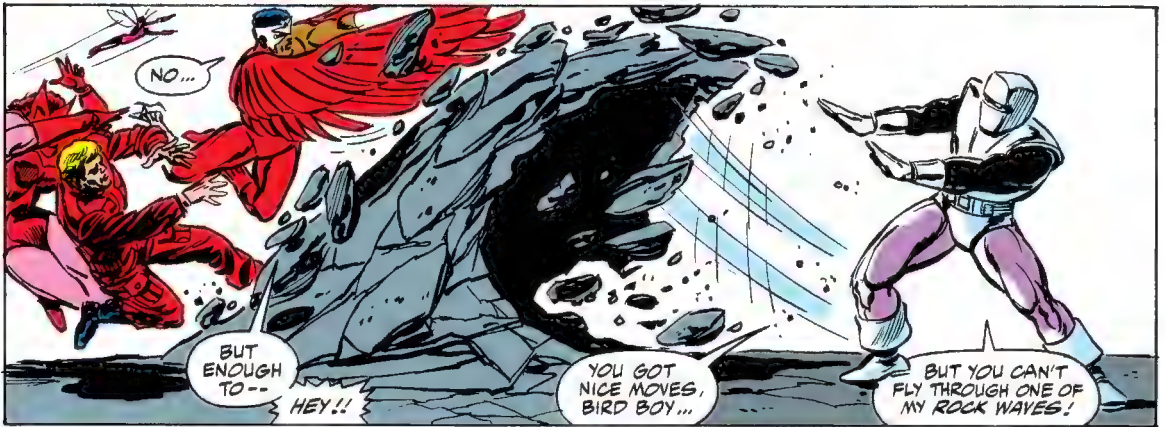
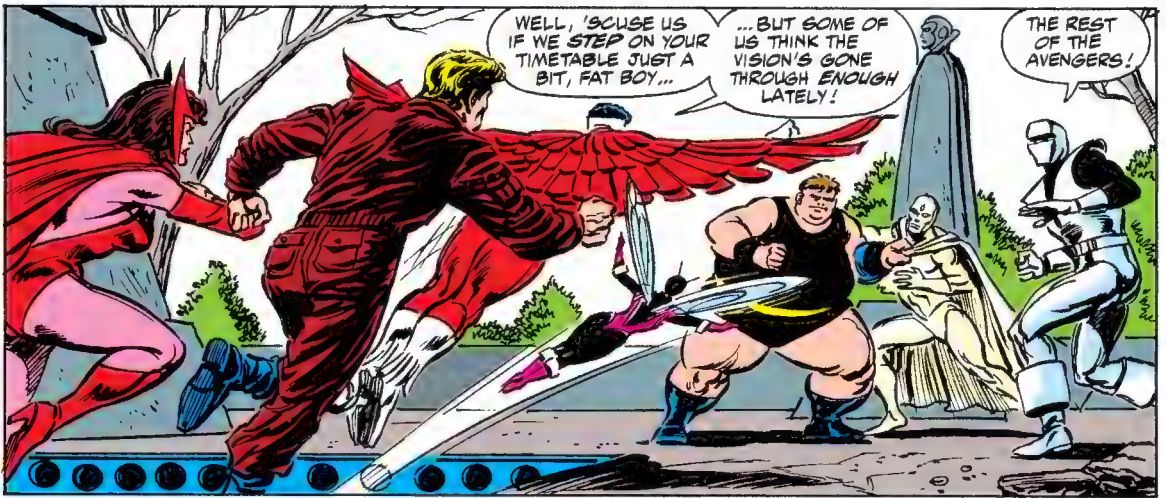




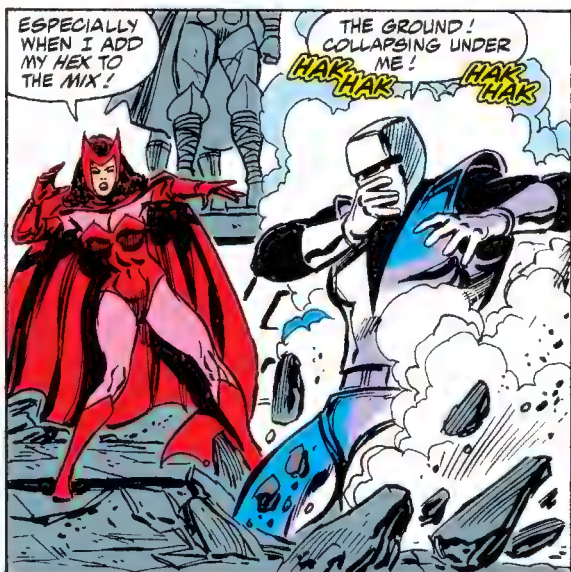
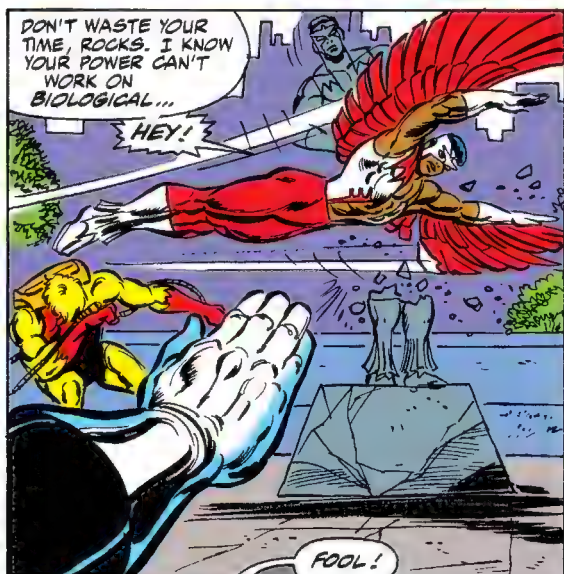
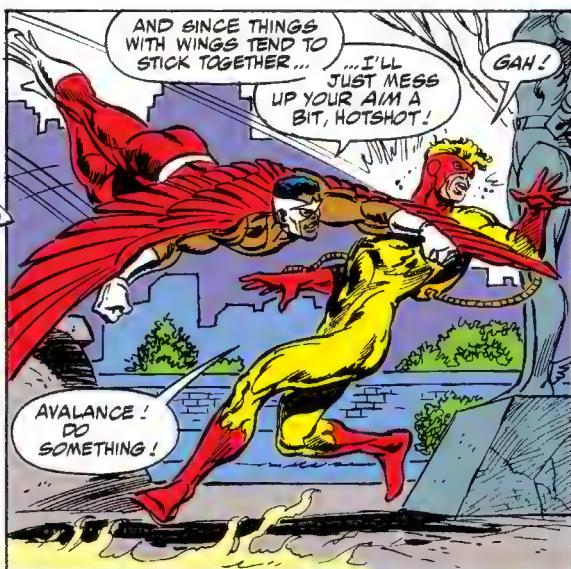




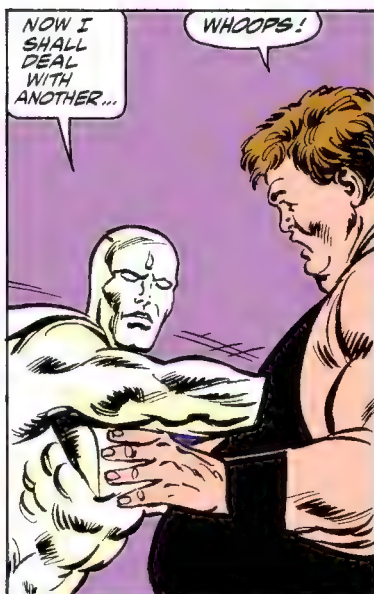




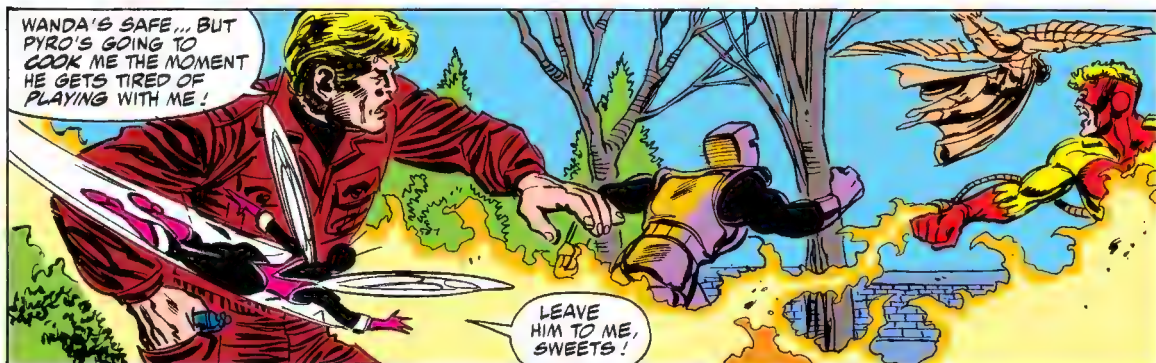














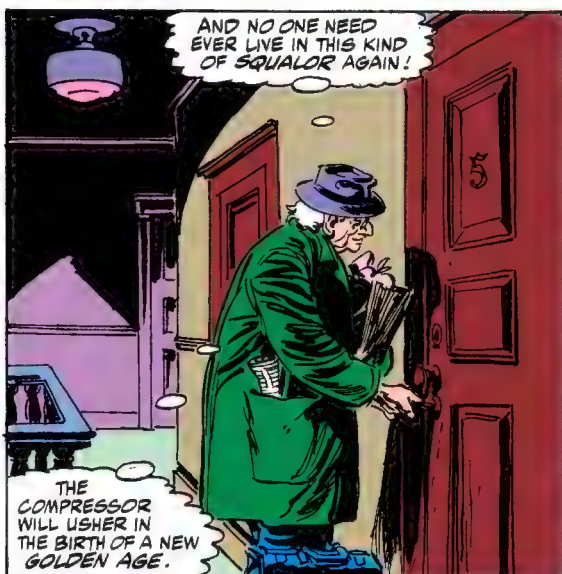


LOOK AT THEM! LOST  
IN A JOYFUL WORLD OF  
FANTASY, FAR FROM  
THESE COLD, BLEAK  
STREETS.



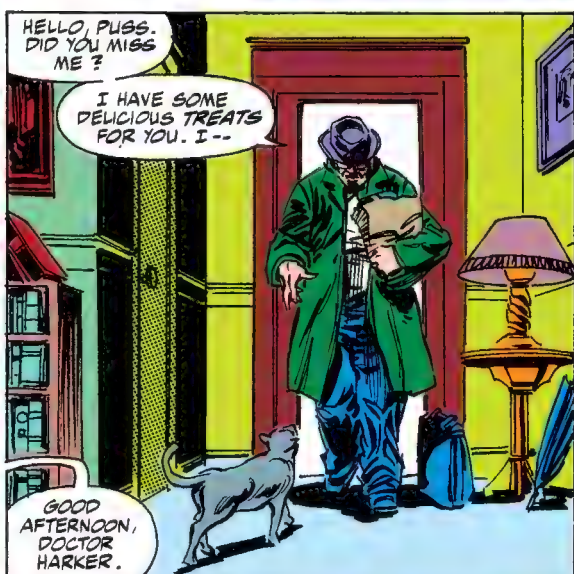
ENJOY  
YOUR PLAY,  
CHILDREN!

WHEN POLYDYNE  
APPROVES FUNDING  
FOR MY COMPRESSOR  
UNIT, I WILL BE ABLE  
TO TRANSFORM THE  
FACE OF THE WORLD...



AND NO ONE NEED  
EVER LIVE IN THIS KIND  
OF SQUALOR AGAIN!

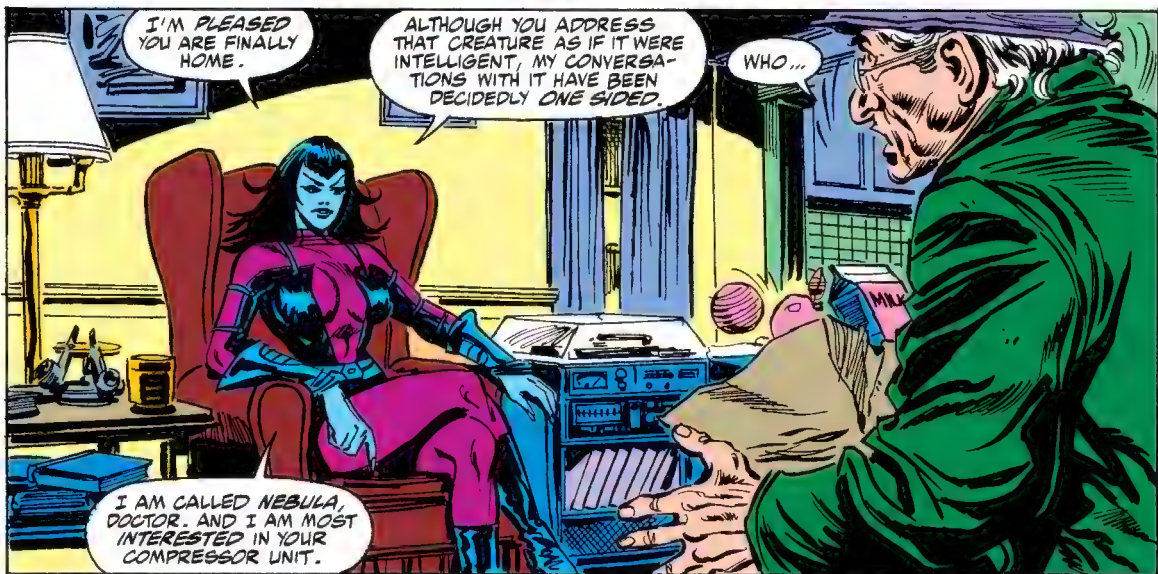
THE  
COMPRESSOR  
WILL USHER IN  
THE BIRTH OF A NEW  
GOLDEN AGE.



HELLO, PUSS.  
DID YOU MISS  
ME?

I HAVE SOME  
DELICIOUS TREATS  
FOR YOU. I --

GOOD  
AFTERNOON,  
DOCTOR  
HARKER.



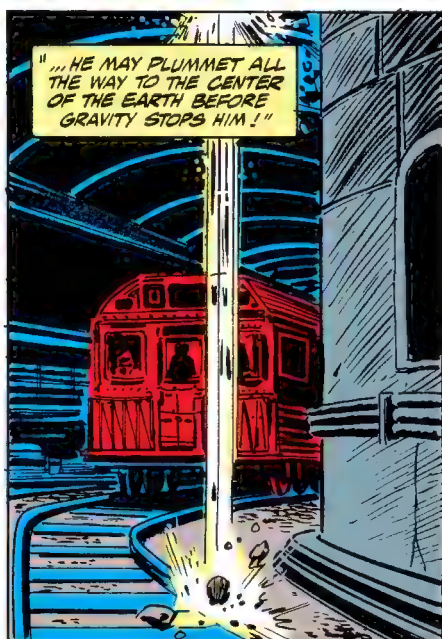
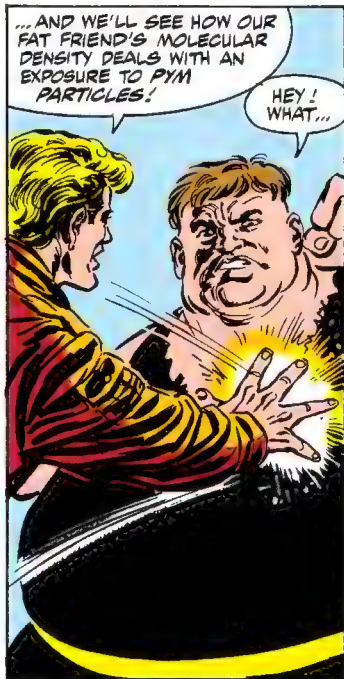
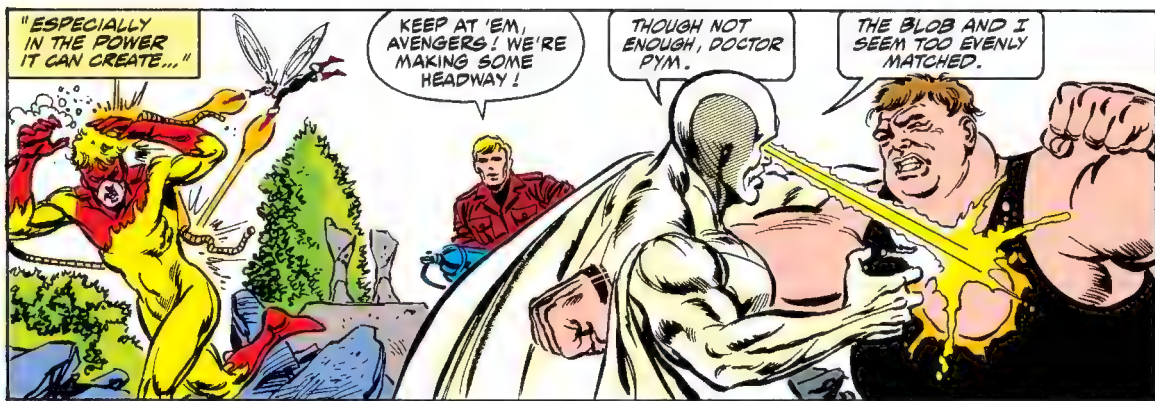
I'M PLEASED  
YOU ARE FINALLY  
HOME.

ALTHOUGH YOU ADDRESS  
THAT CREATURE AS IF IT WERE  
INTELLIGENT, MY CONVERSA-  
TIONS WITH IT HAVE BEEN  
DECIDEDLY ONE SIDED.

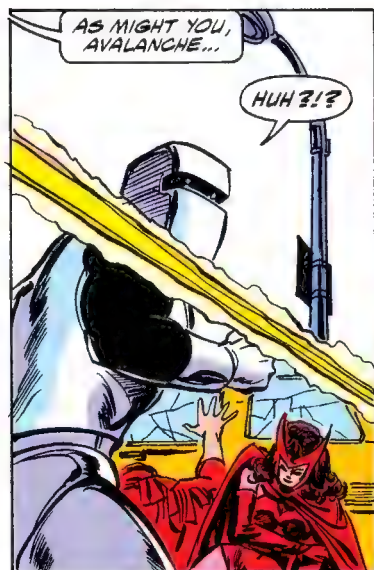
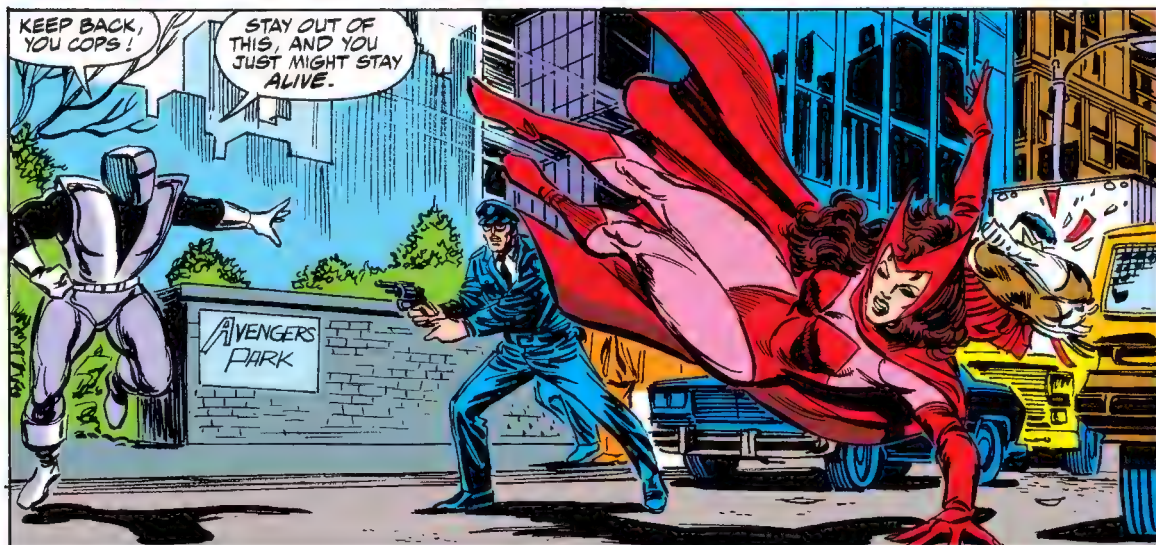
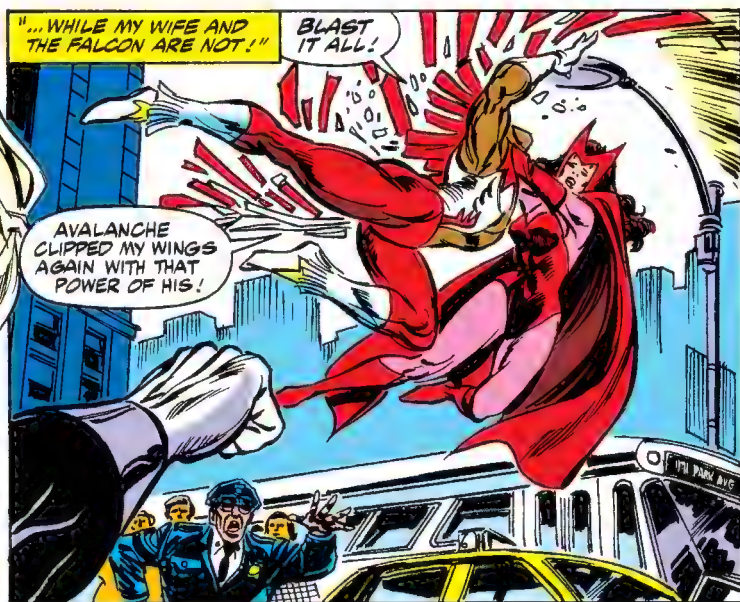
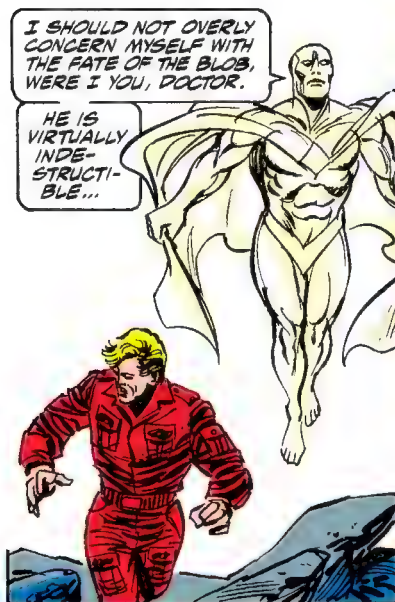
WHO...

I AM CALLED NEBULA,  
DOCTOR. AND I AM MOST  
INTERESTED IN YOUR  
COMPRESSOR UNIT.

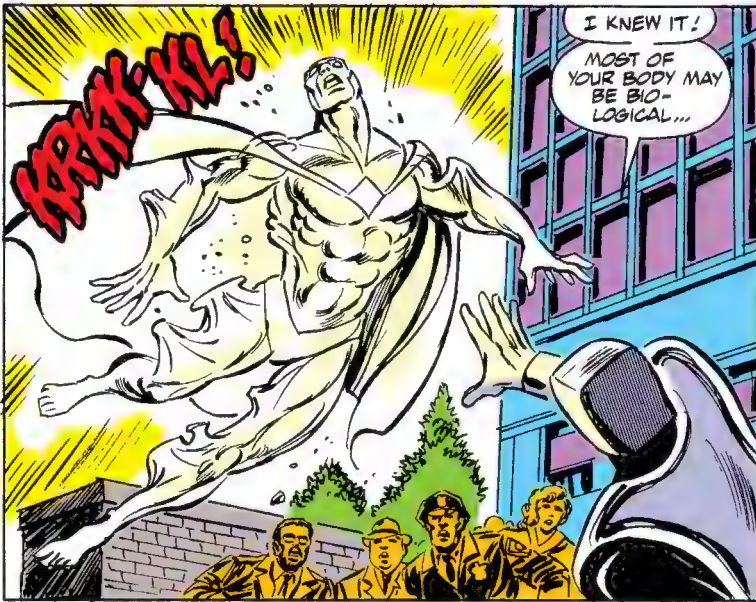








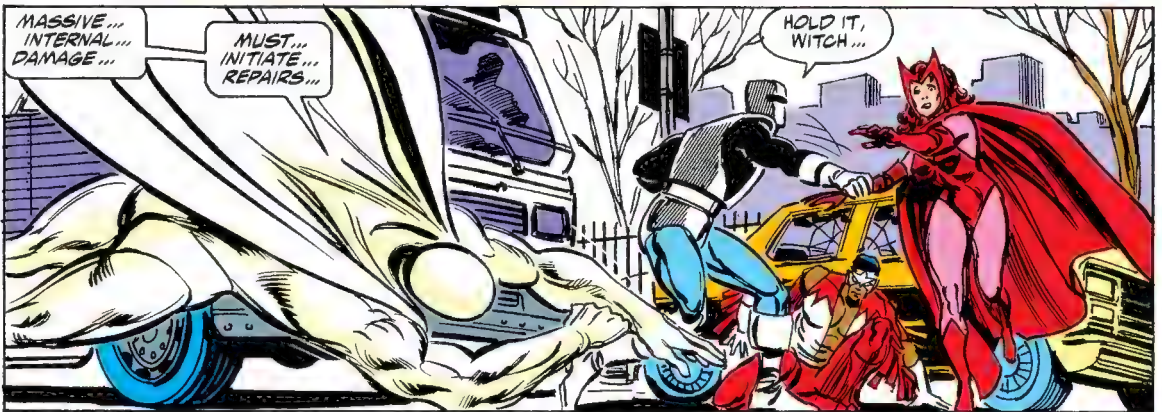




I KNEW IT!  
MOST OF  
YOUR BODY MAY  
BE BIO-  
LOGICAL...



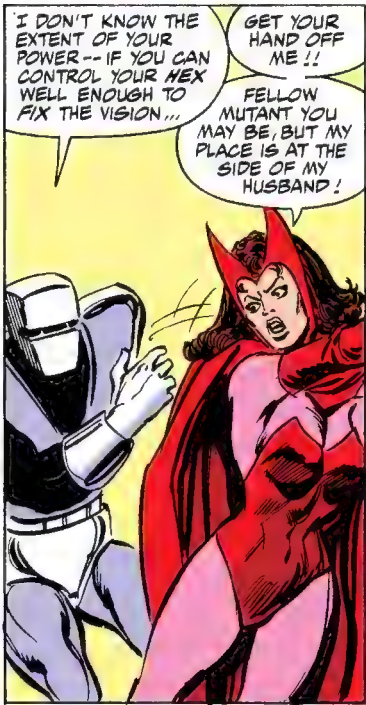
"...BUT THERE'S  
MACHINE PARTS  
IN THERE, TOO!"  
**VISION!!**



MASSIVE...  
INTERNAL...  
DAMAGE...

MUST...  
INITIATE...  
REPAIRS...

HOLD IT,  
WITCH...



I DON'T KNOW THE  
EXTENT OF YOUR  
POWER--IF YOU CAN  
CONTROL YOUR HEX  
WELL ENOUGH TO  
FIX THE VISION...

GET YOUR  
HAND OFF  
ME!!

FELLOW  
MUTANT YOU  
MAY BE, BUT MY  
PLACE IS AT THE  
SIDE OF MY  
HUSBAND!



WHAT  
DID SHE  
SAY?

SHE SOUNDED  
LIKE SHE'D RATHER BE  
FIGHTIN' ON THE SIDE  
OF THEM MUTIES!

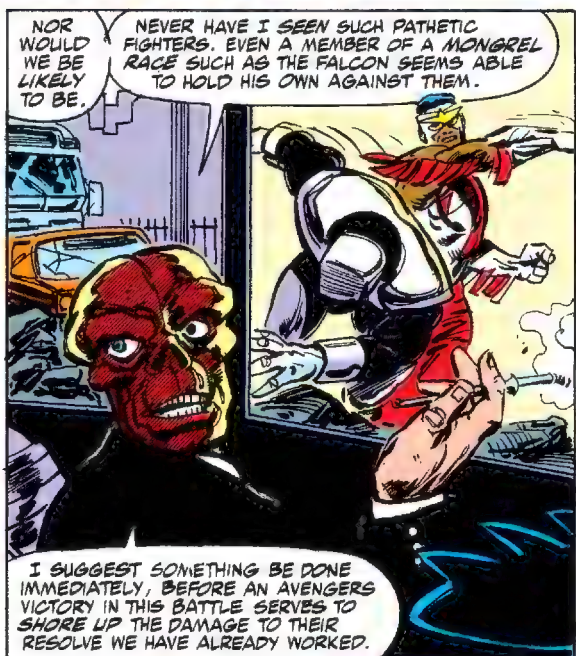
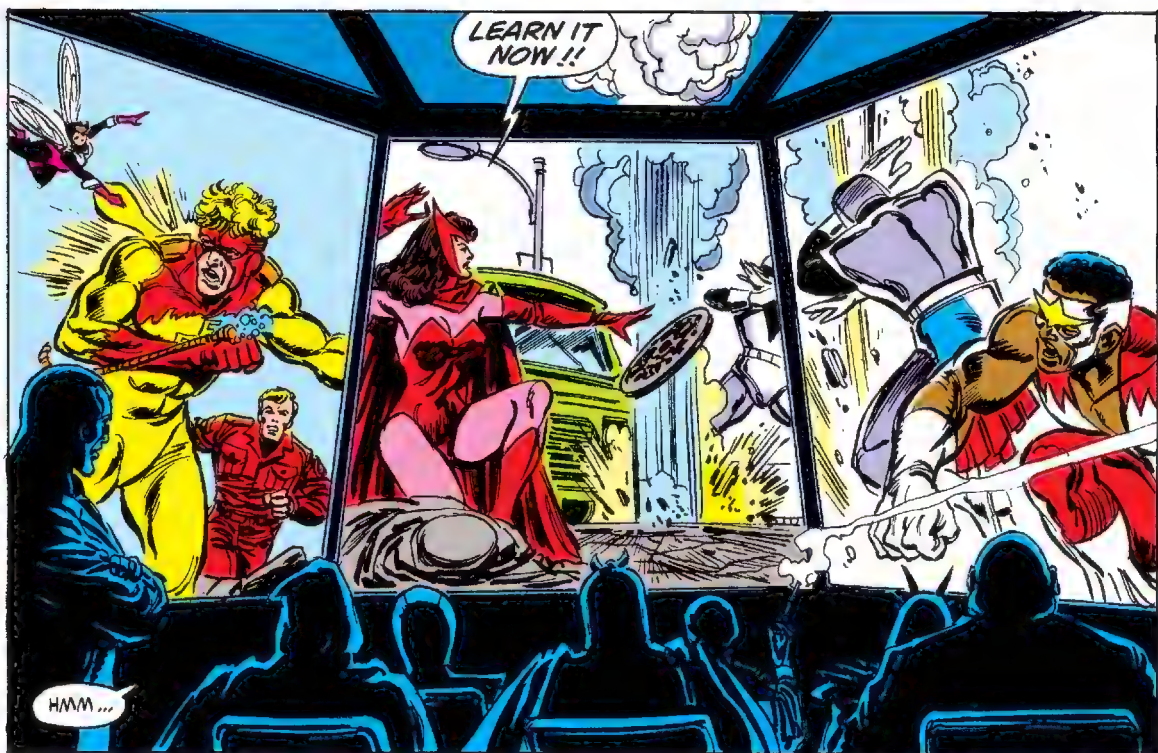
VISION...  
VISION...  
DON'T BE DEAD...  
YOU CAN'T BE DEAD...



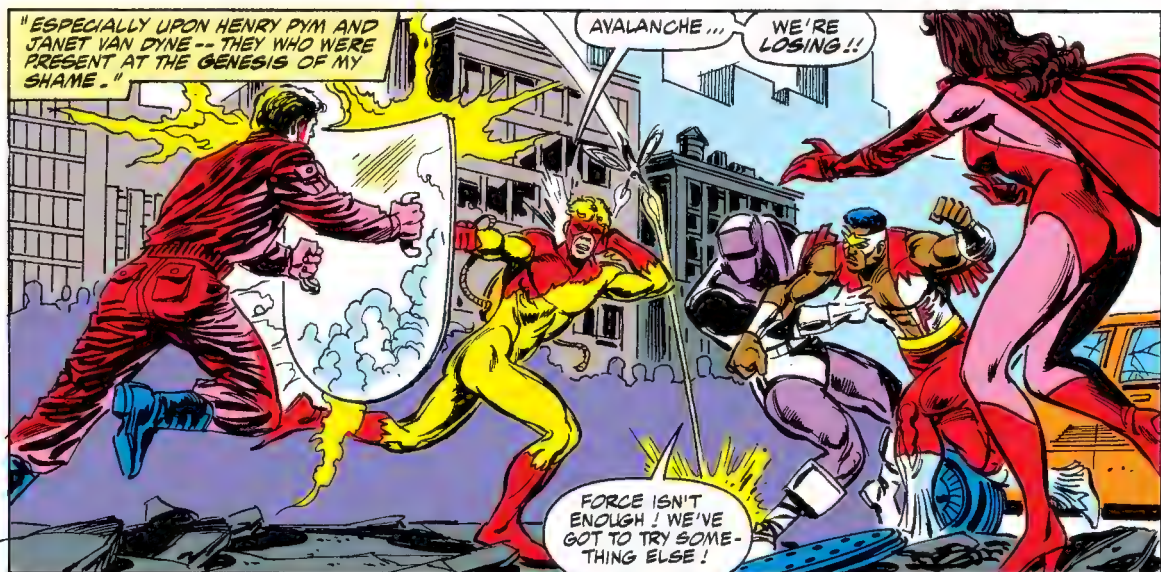
YOU HAVE MADE  
A GRAVE MISTAKE,  
AVALANCHE!

YOU SAID YOU  
WERE NOT SURE OF THE  
EXTENT OF MY POWER...





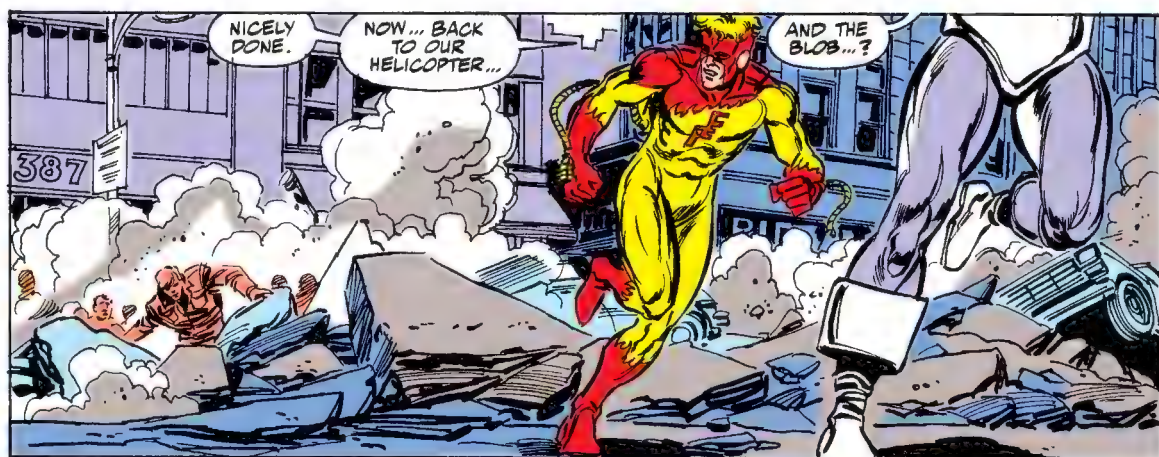








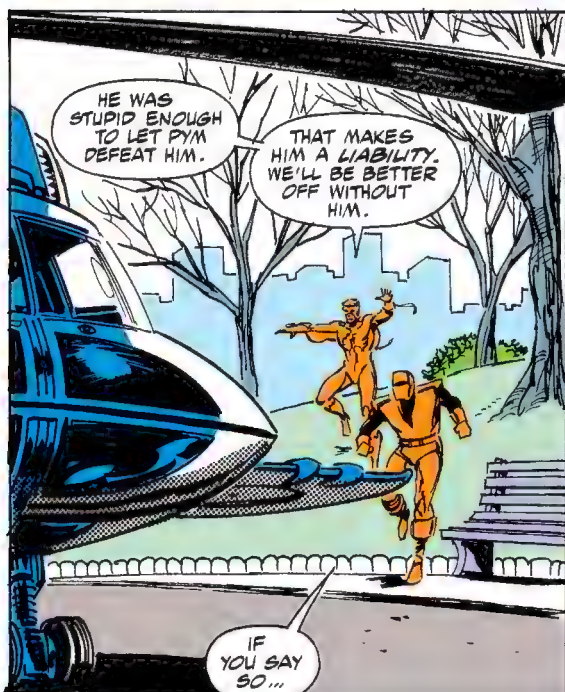




NICELY DONE.

NOW... BACK TO OUR HELICOPTER...

AND THE BLOB...?



HE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO LET PYM DEFEAT HIM.

THAT MAKES HIM A LIABILITY. WE'LL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM.

IF YOU SAY SO...



"I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THIS IS GOING TO COME BACK ON US SOME DAY..."

THERE THEY GO!

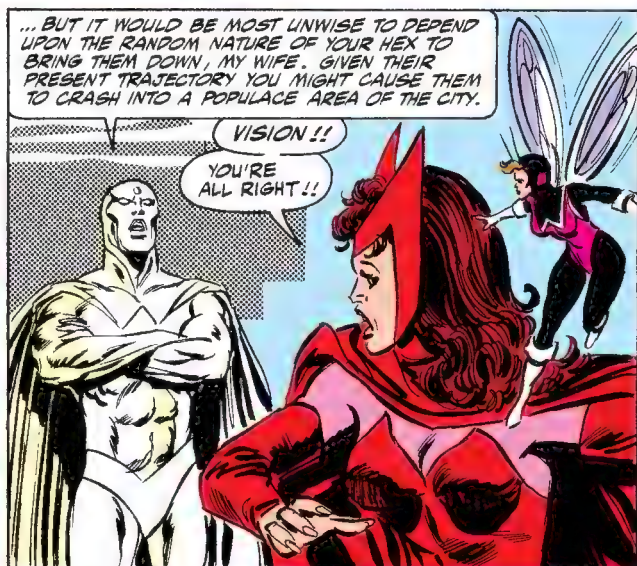
DO WE GO AFTER THEM... OR TAKE CARE OF WOUNDED CIVILIANS... OR...



THERE IS NO NEED TO PURSUE THEM, FALCON.

FAST THOUGH THEIR CRAFT MAY BE, THE RANGE OF MY HEX POWER IS UNLIMITED...

PERHAPS...

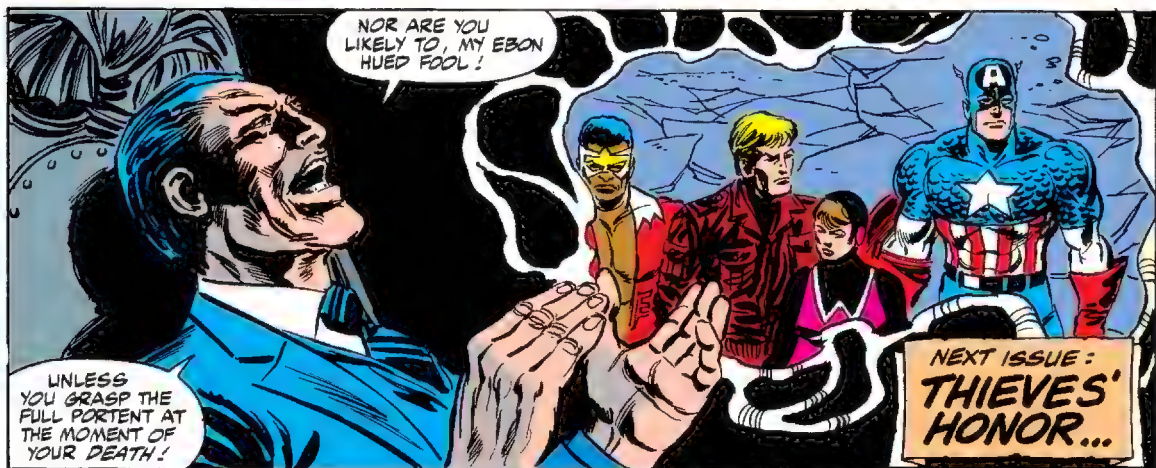
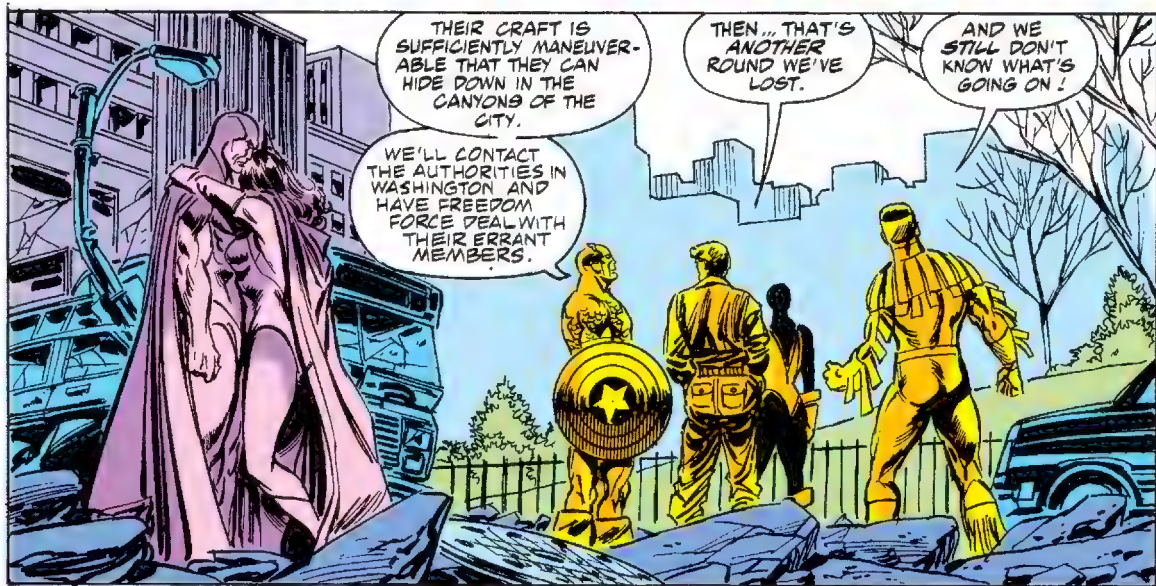
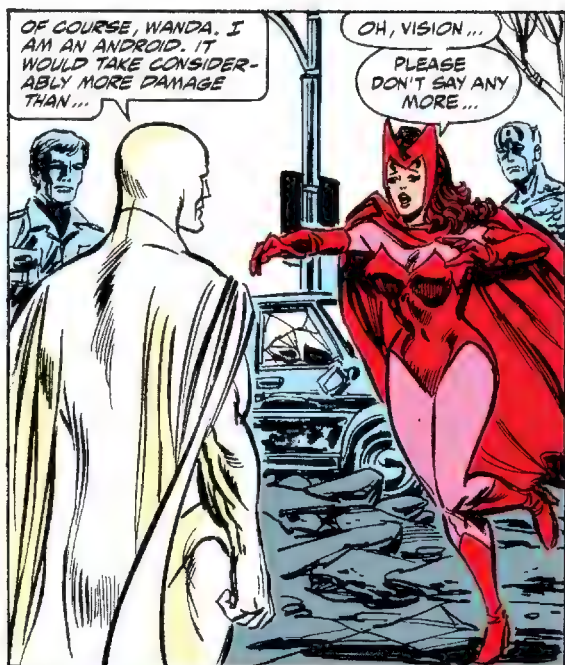


... BUT IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE TO DEPEND UPON THE RANDOM NATURE OF YOUR HEX TO BRING THEM DOWN, MY WIFE. GIVEN THEIR PRESENT TRAJECTORY YOU MIGHT CAUSE THEM TO CRASH INTO A POPULACE AREA OF THE CITY.

VISION!!

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!







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JAN  
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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

ACTS of VENGEANCE!

# AVENGERS WEST COAST™

MY STINGS  
ARE USELESS  
AGAINST THE  
MOLE MAN'S  
CREATURE,  
HANK!

TORCH,  
HELP US!

ALL OF  
YOU, SHUT  
UP AND  
FIGHT!

DON'T WORRY,  
DR. PYM, THE  
AVENGERS HAVE  
ONLY BEGUN TO  
FIGHT!

THE FIVE OF YOU  
CAN'T DO IT ALONE!  
IT'S TIME FOR  
WONDER MAN  
TO TAKE A HAND!

IT'LL TAKE  
MORE THAN  
RUBBLE TO  
KEEP IRON MAN  
OUT OF ACTION!





NOW!

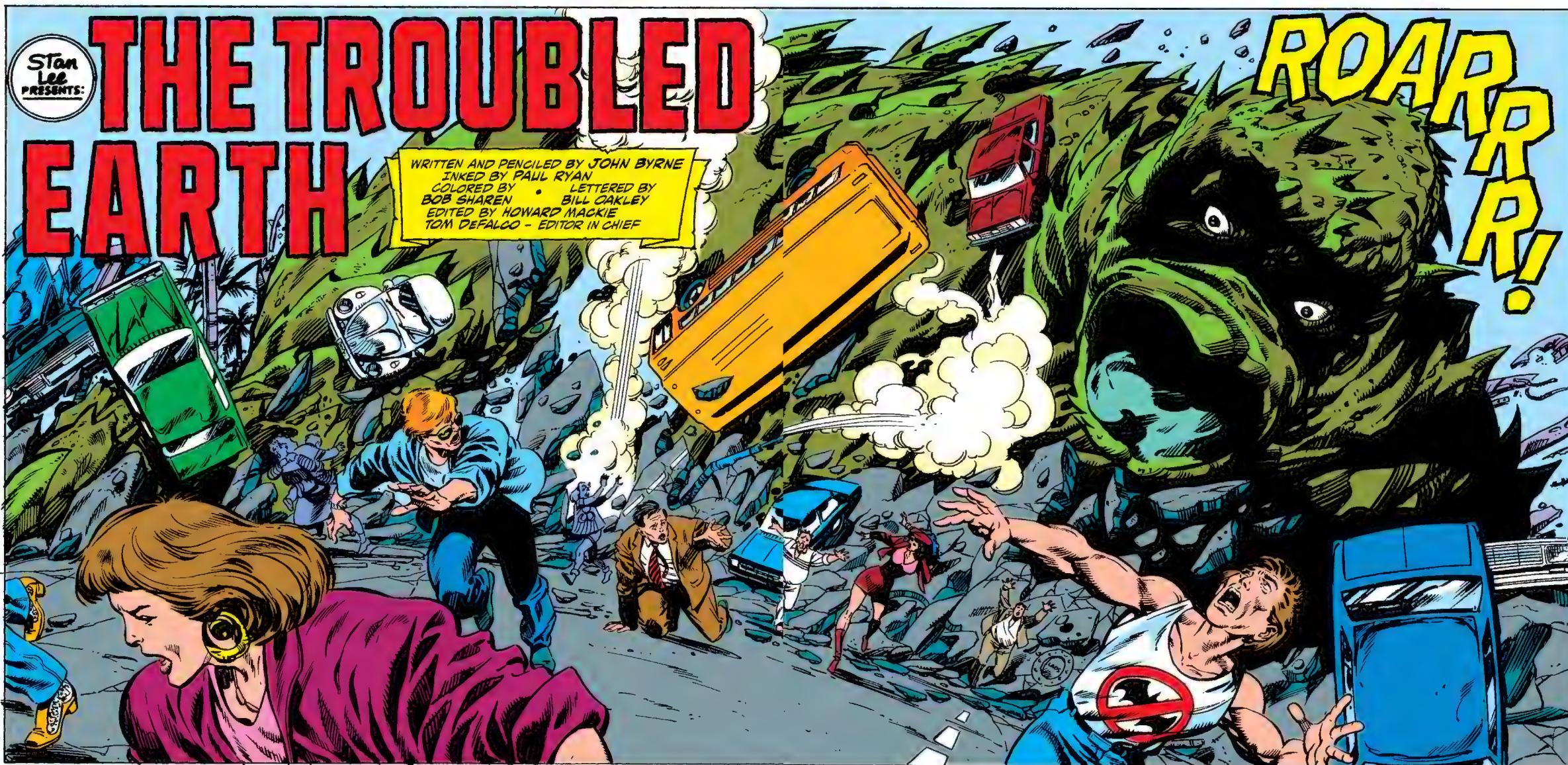
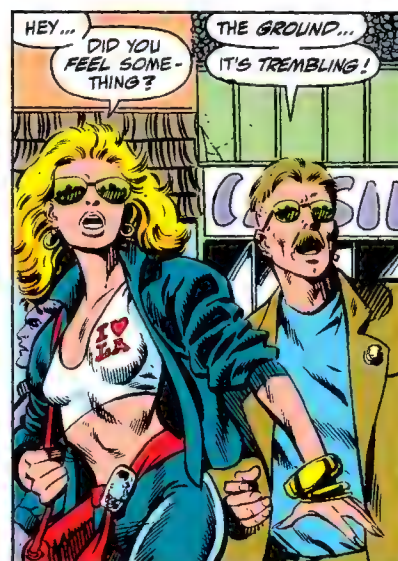
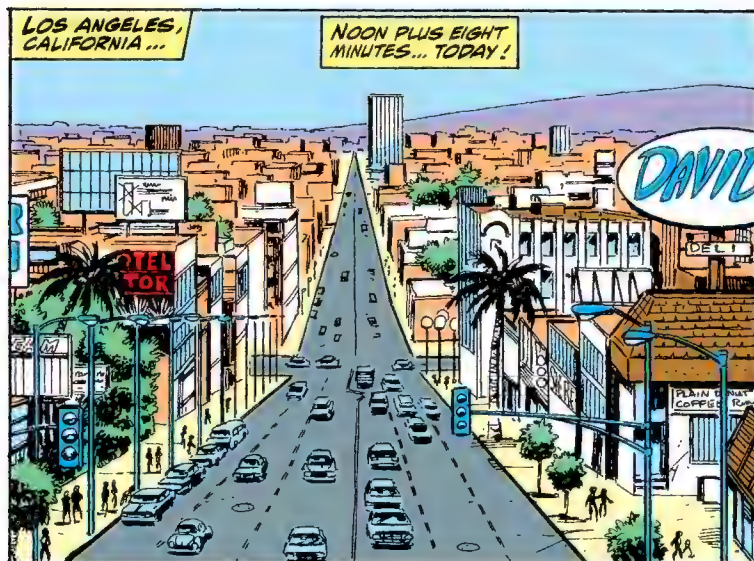
NOW!

ATTACK!!

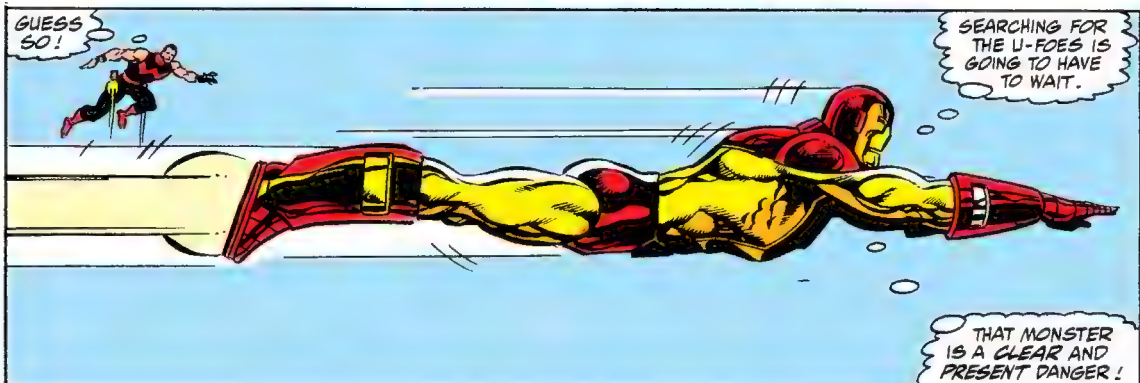
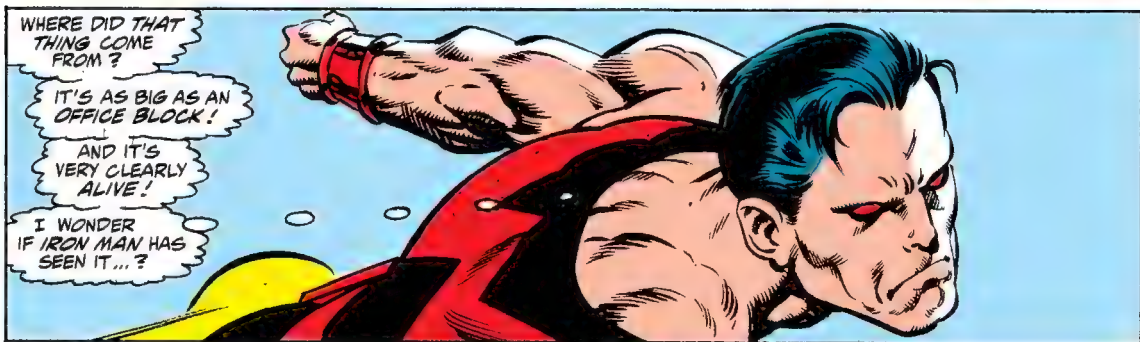
**ATTACK!!**



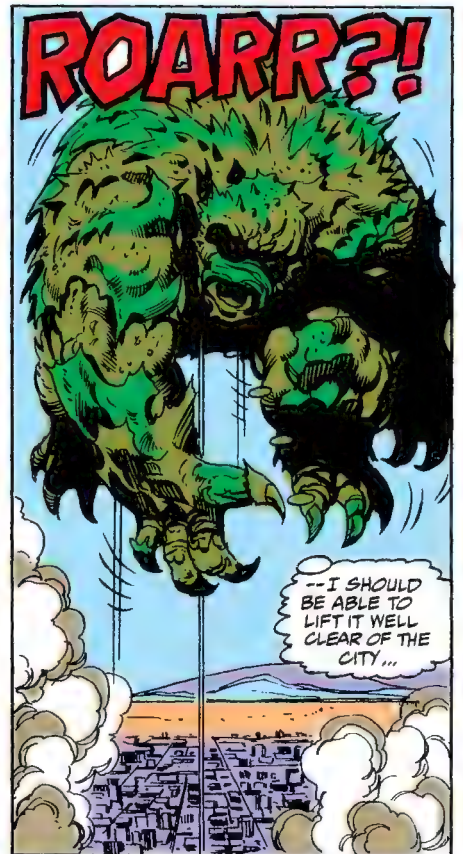
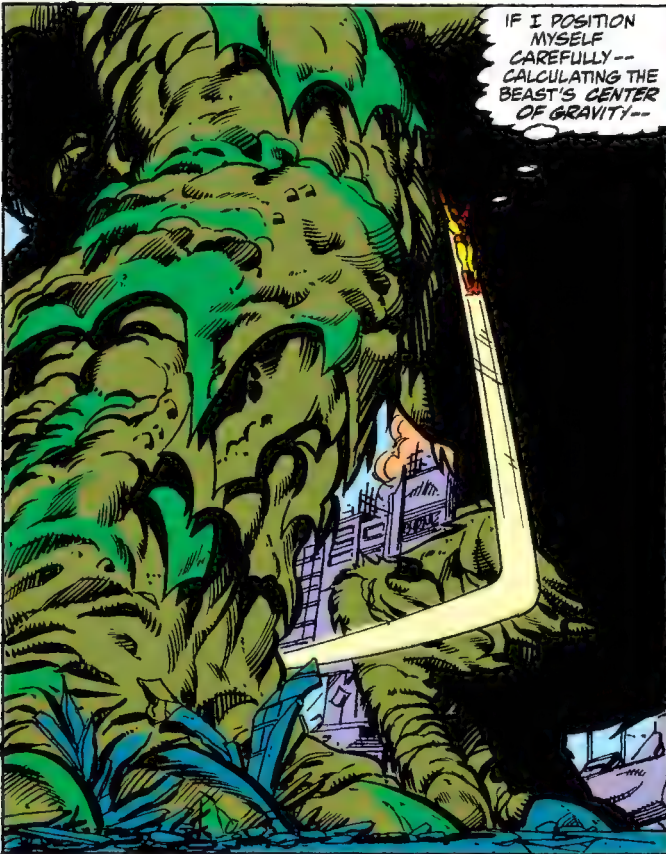
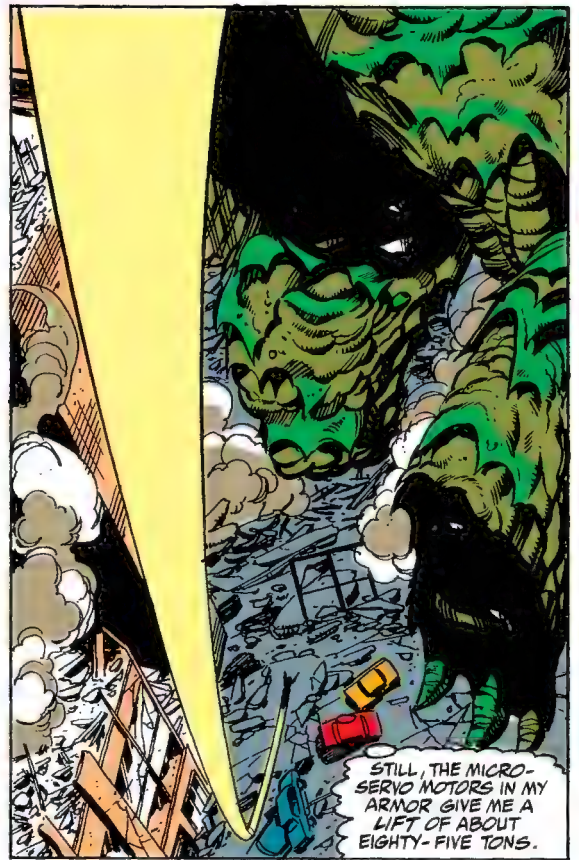
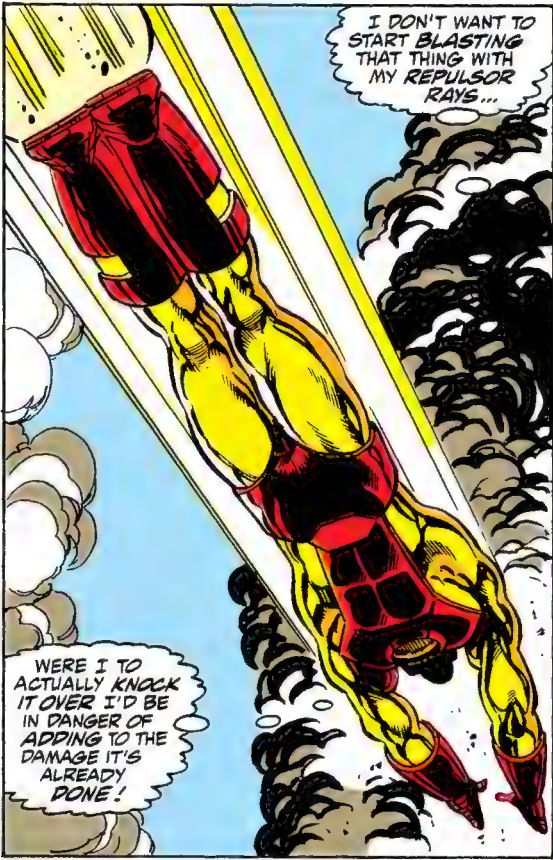




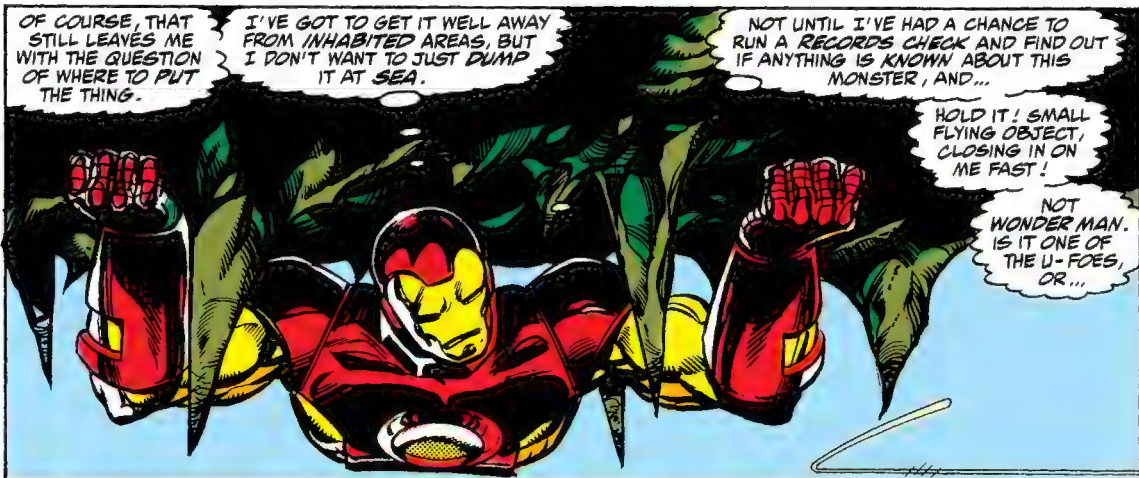












OF COURSE, THAT STILL LEAVES ME WITH THE QUESTION OF WHERE TO PUT THE THING.

I'VE GOT TO GET IT WELL AWAY FROM INHABITED AREAS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO JUST DUMP IT AT SEA.

NOT UNTIL I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO RUN A RECORDS CHECK AND FIND OUT IF ANYTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS MONSTER, AND...

HOLD IT! SMALL FLYING OBJECT, CLOSING IN ON ME FAST!

NOT WONDER MAN. IS IT ONE OF THE U-FOES, OR...



U.S. AGENT! YOU'VE BEEN CONSPICUOUS BY YOUR ABSENCE FOR A WHILE...

NOT WITHOUT GOOD REASON, IRON MAN.

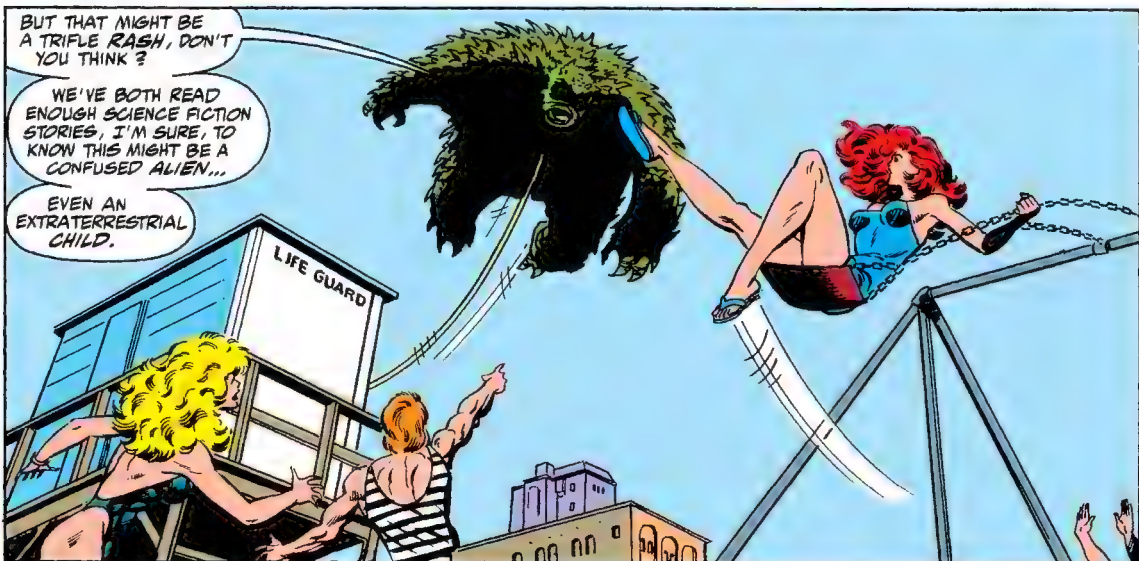
BUT... WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT THING? IT'S WRECKED HALF OF L.A.!

WELL, NOT QUITE... BUT IT HAS PROVEN SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM.

SO FAR MY INTERNAL COMPUTERS HAVE TURNED UP NOTHING ON ITS NATURE OR ORIGINS.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL THE THING? YOU MUST HAVE POWER ENOUGH IN THAT TIN SUIT OF YOURS.

INDEED I DO...



BUT THAT MIGHT BE A TRIFLE RASH, DON'T YOU THINK?

WE'VE BOTH READ ENOUGH SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, I'M SURE, TO KNOW THIS MIGHT BE A CONFUSED ALIEN...

EVEN AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL CHILD.



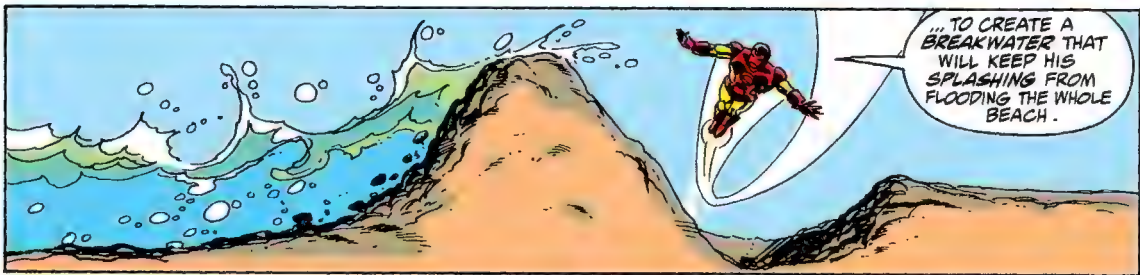


SO I'LL JUST  
DEPOSIT HIM IN  
THE SHALLOWS  
OFF SHORE...

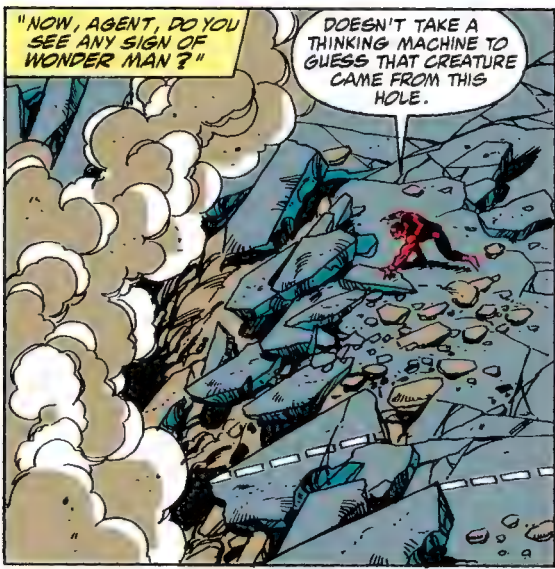
POW



... AND USE MY  
REPLUSORS...



... TO CREATE A  
BREAKWATER THAT  
WILL KEEP HIS  
SPLASHING FROM  
FLOODING THE WHOLE  
BEACH .



"NOW, AGENT, DO YOU  
SEE ANY SIGN OF  
WONDER MAN?"

DOESN'T TAKE A  
THINKING MACHINE TO  
GUESS THAT CREATURE  
CAME FROM THIS  
HOLE.



LOOKS LIKE IT GOES  
DOWN AND BACK FOR A  
COUPLE OF MILES.

WANT SOME  
COMPANY,  
WONDER  
MAN?

GUESS MY BEST  
BET IS TO BACKTRACK  
THE CREATURE TO ITS  
POINT OF ORIGIN...





TORCH!

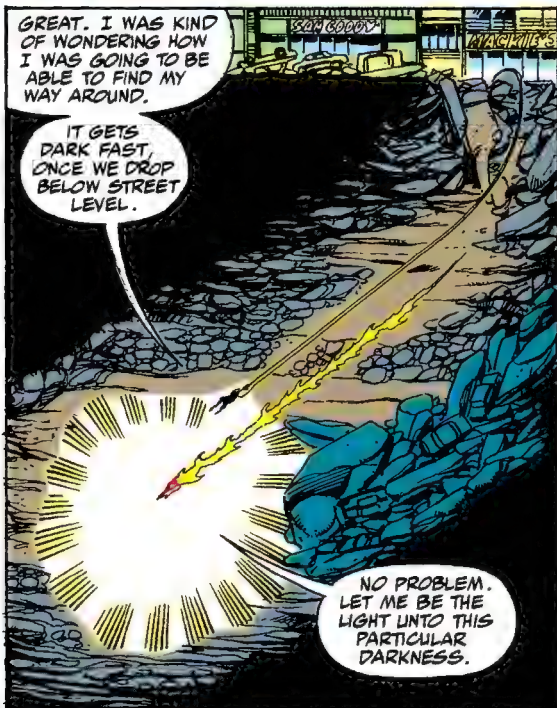
DO YOU  
FEEL UP  
TO IT?

YOU  
SUFFERED PRETTY  
BADLY AT THE  
HANDS OF THE  
U-FOES.

IT'S TRUE X-RAY  
ZAPPED ME WITH HIS  
RADIATION,  
WONDER MAN...

... BUT THAT  
HAD ONLY A  
TEMPORARY  
EFFECT ON MY  
ARTIFICIAL  
BODY.

I'M  
FINE  
NOW.



GREAT. I WAS KIND  
OF WONDERING HOW  
I WAS GOING TO BE  
ABLE TO FIND MY  
WAY AROUND.

IT GETS  
DARK FAST,  
ONCE WE DROP  
BELOW STREET  
LEVEL.

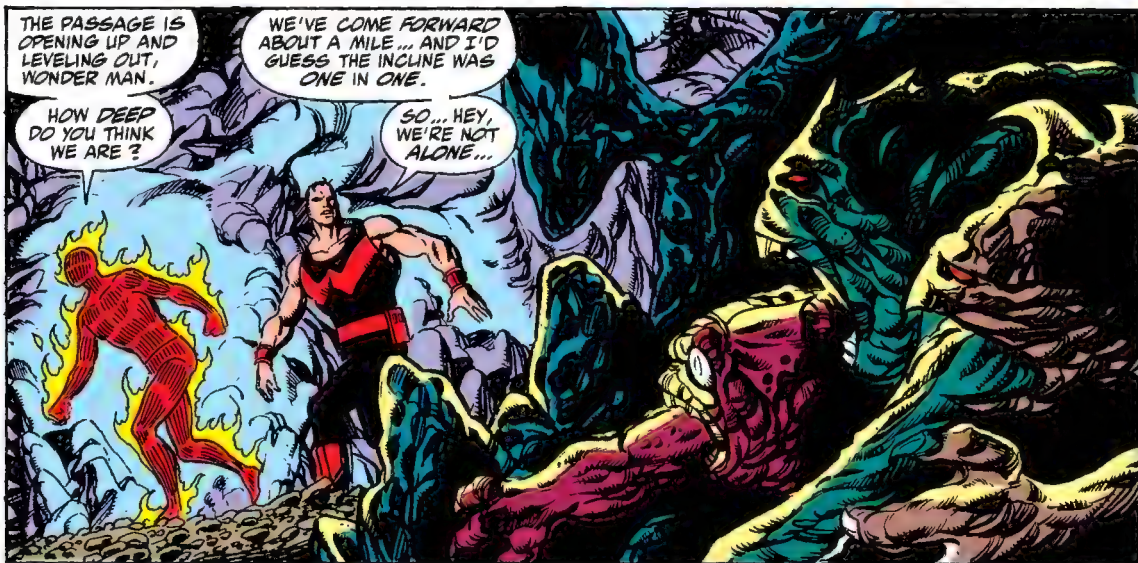
NO PROBLEM.  
LET ME BE THE  
LIGHT INTO THIS  
PARTICULAR  
DARKNESS.



IT'S AMAZING!

I'D GOTTEN USED TO  
WORKING ALONGSIDE THE  
VISION, THINKING OF HIM  
AS HUMAN, EVEN THOUGH  
HE WAS OFTEN SO COLD  
AND ROBOTIC.

BUT THE TORCH IS  
ANOTHER MATTER! HE'S  
SO LIFE-LIKE IN EVERY  
RESPECT IT'S HARD TO  
BELIEVE HE WAS PUT  
TOGETHER IN SOME-  
BODY'S LAB -- AND  
FIFTY YEARS AGO  
AT THAT!



THE PASSAGE IS  
OPENING UP AND  
LEVELING OUT,  
WONDER MAN.

WE'VE COME FORWARD  
ABOUT A MILE ... AND I'D  
GUESS THE INCLINE WAS  
ONE IN ONE.

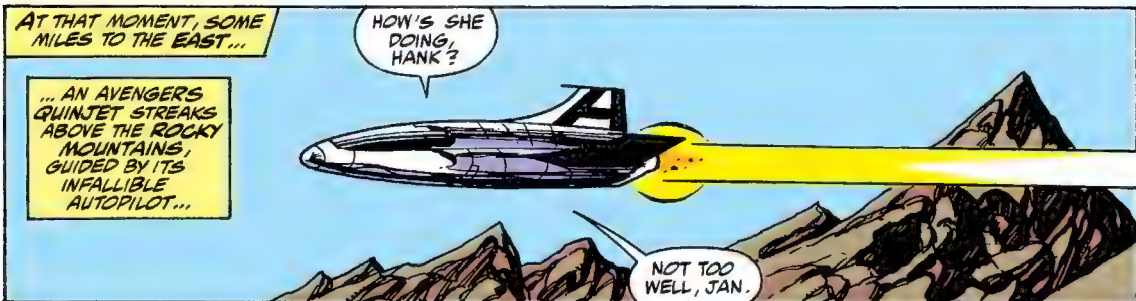
HOW DEEP  
DO YOU THINK  
WE ARE?

SO ... HEY,  
WE'RE NOT  
ALONE...









AT THAT MOMENT, SOME MILES TO THE EAST...

HOW'S SHE DOING, HANK?

... AN AVENGERS QUINJET STREAKS ABOVE THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, GUIDED BY ITS INFALLIBLE AUTOPILOT...

NOT TOO WELL, JAN.



SHE'S COMPLETELY UNRESPONSIVE AGAIN.

IT'S FOR ALL THE WORLD AS THOUGH HER BRAIN HAS JUST SWITCHED OFF!

CAN'T YOU BRING HER OUT OF IT? YOU DID ONCE BEFORE ALREADY.

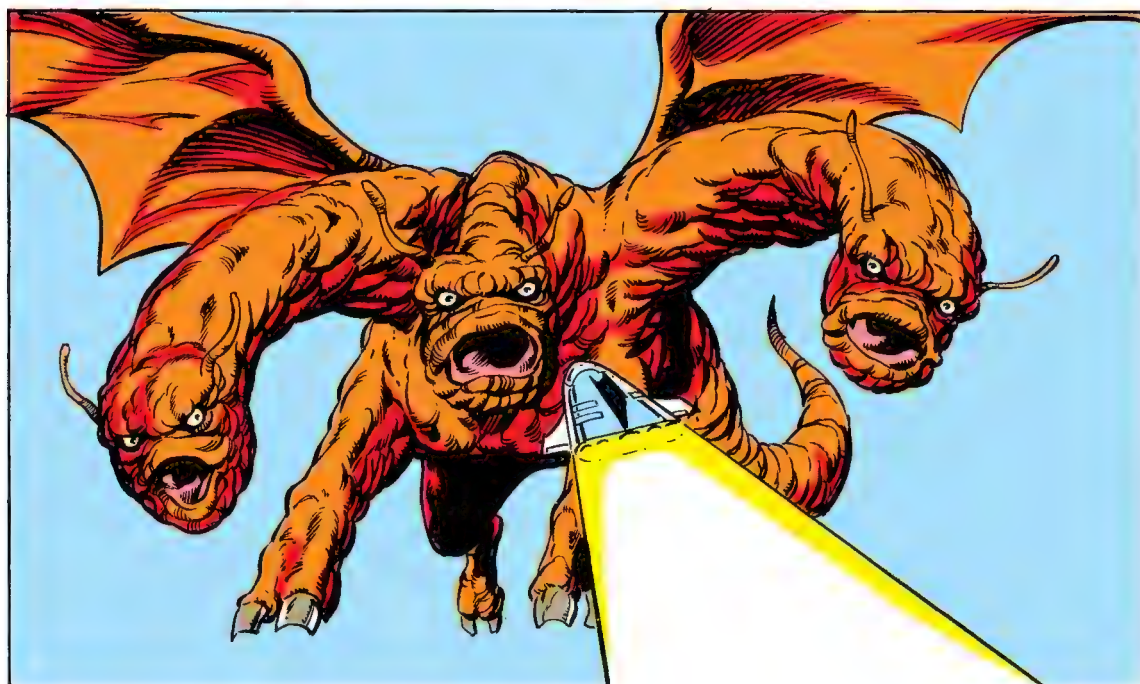


YES, BY TELLING HER THE VISION WAS IN DANGER. BUT THE VISION HAS ELECTED TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK...

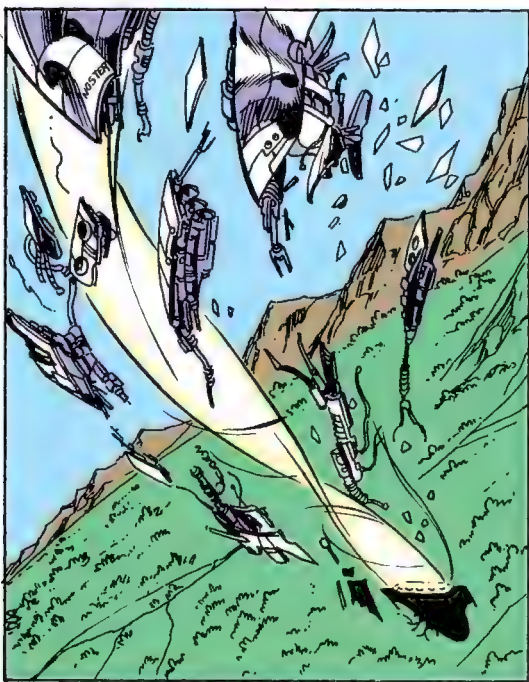
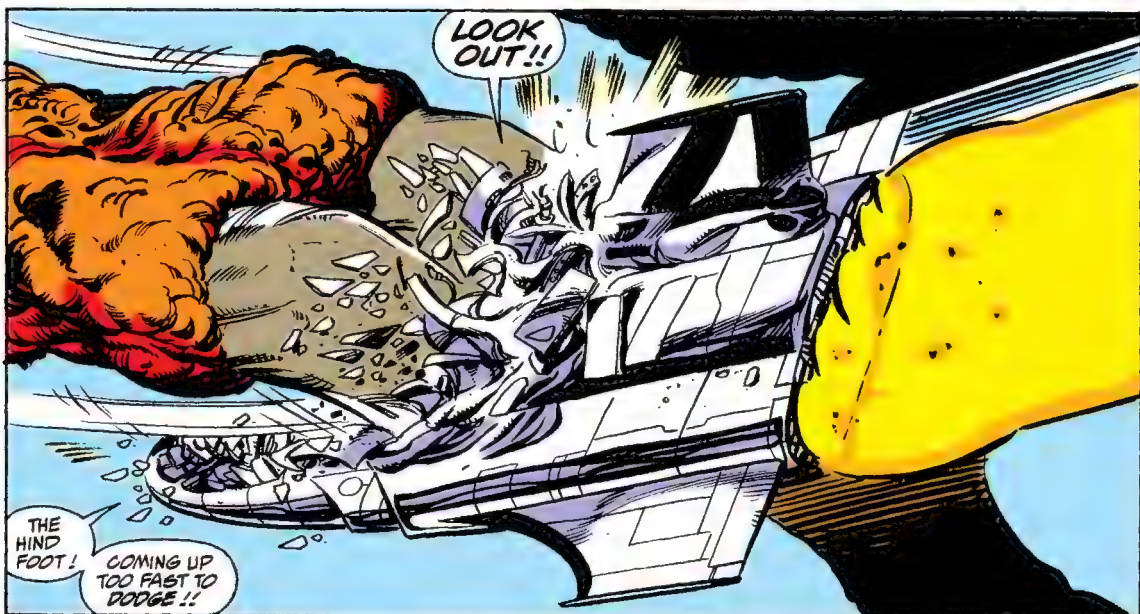
AND I DON'T THINK THAT KIND OF "SHOCK THERAPY" SHOULD BE REPEATED ANYWAY.

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO FOR HER? WE CAN'T JUST--

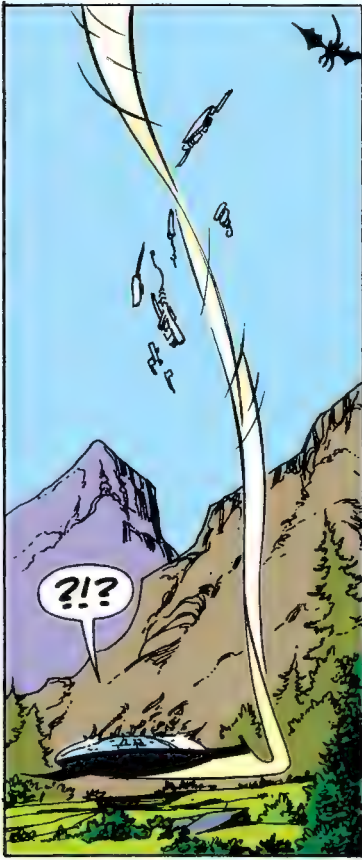
OMIGOSH! HANK! LOOK!!











?!?



HANK... WHAT...  
WHAT DID  
YOU DO??

IT WASN'T  
ME, JAN.

SOME SORT  
OF MAGNETIC  
FORCE FIELD  
GRABBED US,  
SET US DOWN  
IN ONE PIECE!

IT'S STILL  
HOLDING THE  
QUINJET!

HE'S COMING  
ROUND AGAIN!

AND I'LL BET  
IT'S SOMETHING  
TO DO WITH OUR  
LITTLE PLAYMATE  
UP THERE!



QUICK! TAKE  
WANDA! GET HER  
TO COVER!

THERE'S ONE  
LAST CHANCE WE  
MAY HAVE AGAINST  
THIS MONSTER!

HANK...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING TO  
DO...??



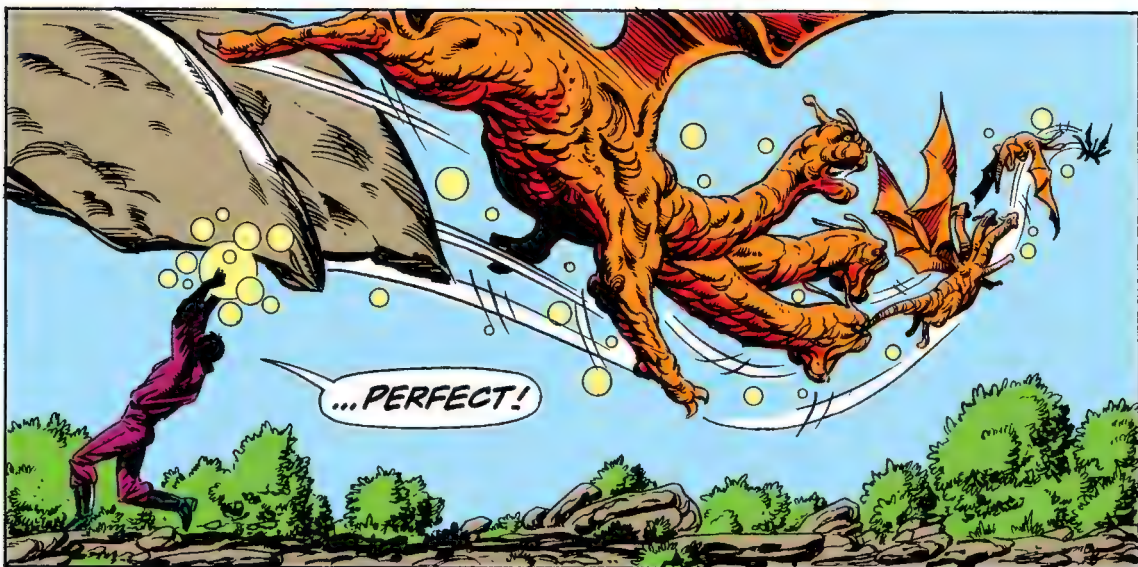
DON'T ASK  
QUESTIONS,  
JANET.

AND FOR  
GOD'S SAKE  
DON'T DISTRACT  
ME!

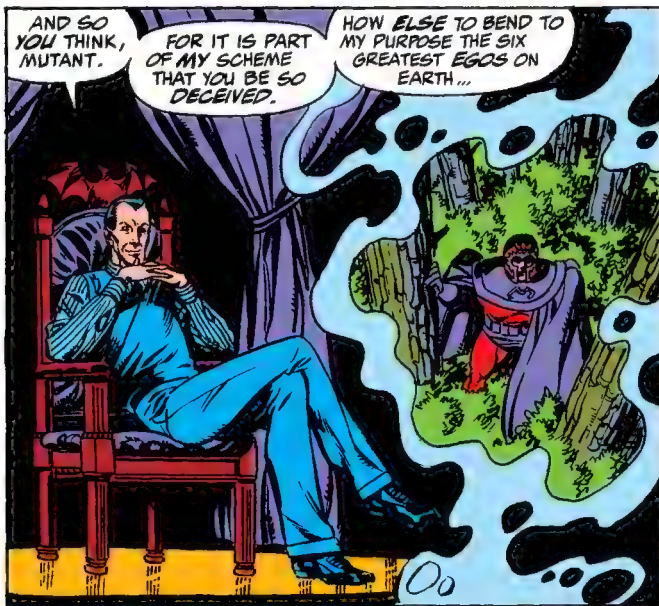


MY TIMING  
IS GOING TO  
HAVE TO  
BE...

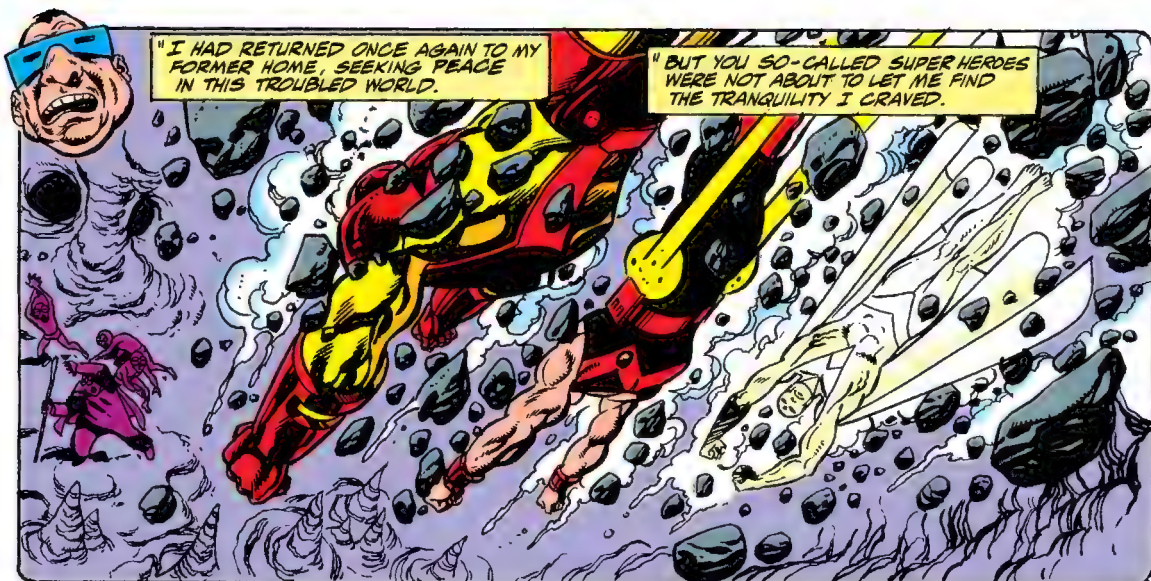






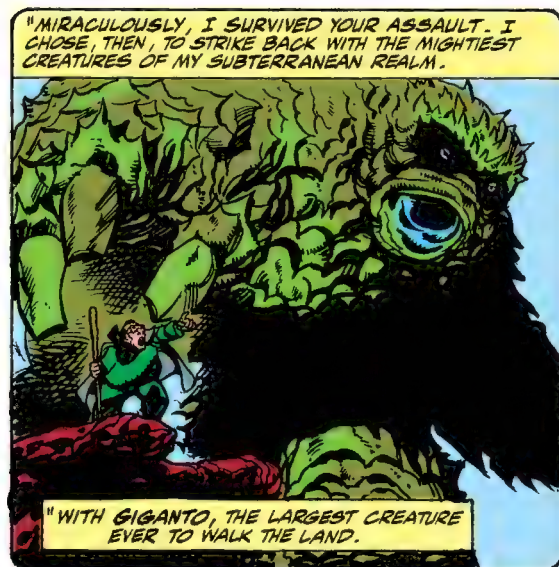






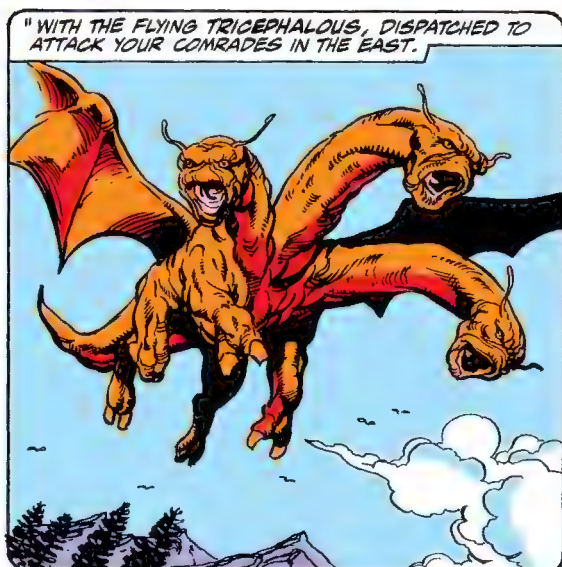
"I HAD RETURNED ONCE AGAIN TO MY FORMER HOME, SEEKING PEACE IN THIS TROUBLED WORLD.

"BUT YOU SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES WERE NOT ABOUT TO LET ME FIND THE TRANQUILITY I CRAVED.

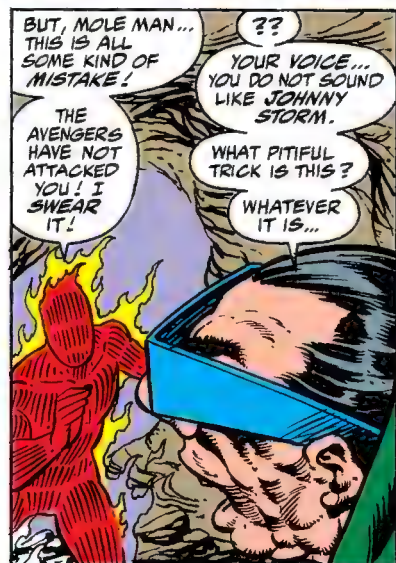


"MIRACULOUSLY, I SURVIVED YOUR ASSAULT. I CHOSE, THEN, TO STRIKE BACK WITH THE MIGHTIEST CREATURES OF MY SUBTERRANEAN REALM.

"WITH GIGANTO, THE LARGEST CREATURE EVER TO WALK THE LAND.



"WITH THE FLYING TRICEPHALOUS, DISPATCHED TO ATTACK YOUR COMRADES IN THE EAST.



BUT, MOLE MAN... THIS IS ALL SOME KIND OF MISTAKE!

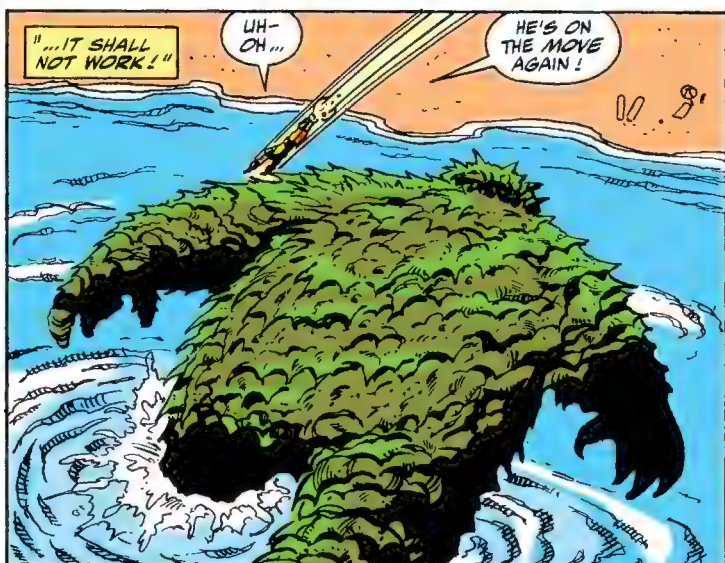
THE AVENGERS HAVE NOT ATTACKED YOU! I SWEAR IT!

??

YOUR VOICE... YOU DO NOT SOUND LIKE JOHNNY STORM.

WHAT PITIFUL TRICK IS THIS?

WHATEVER IT IS...

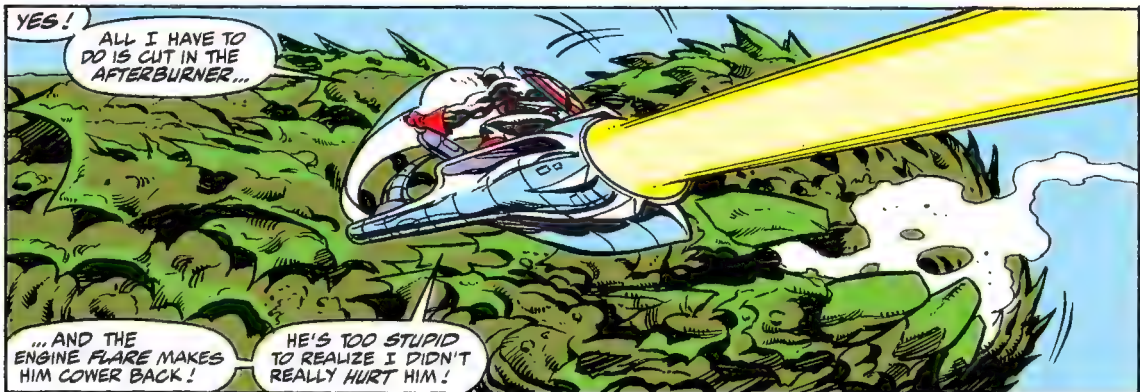
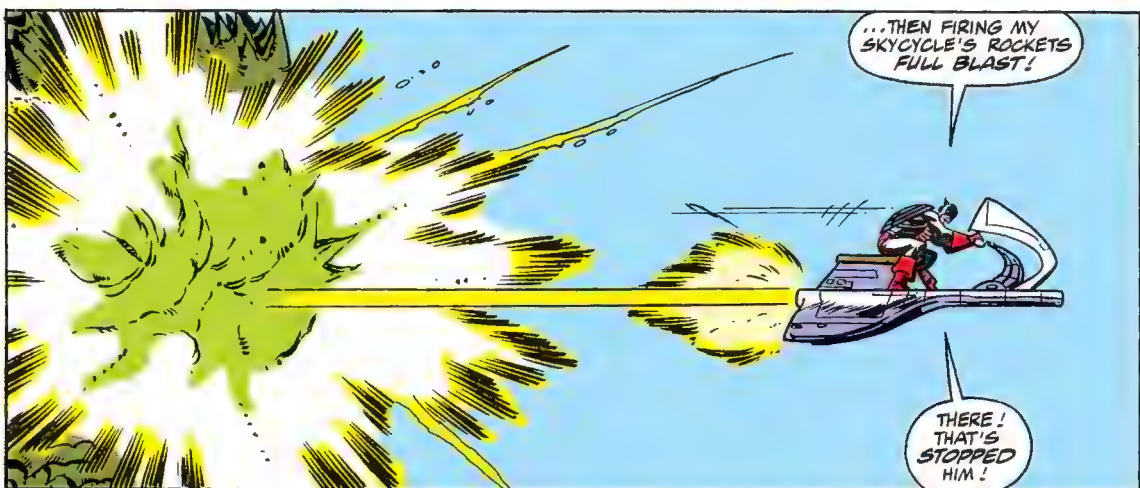
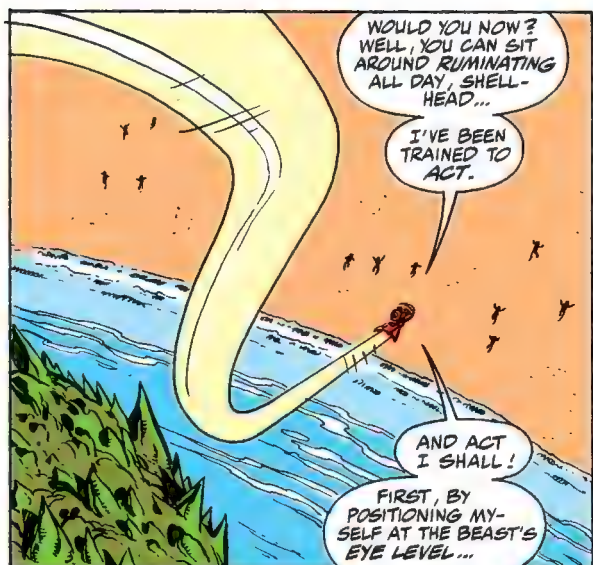


"...IT SHALL NOT WORK!"

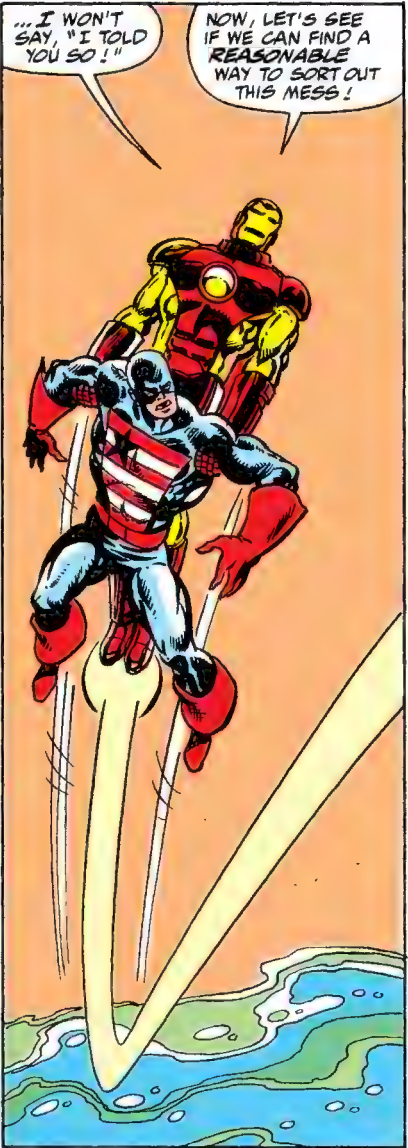
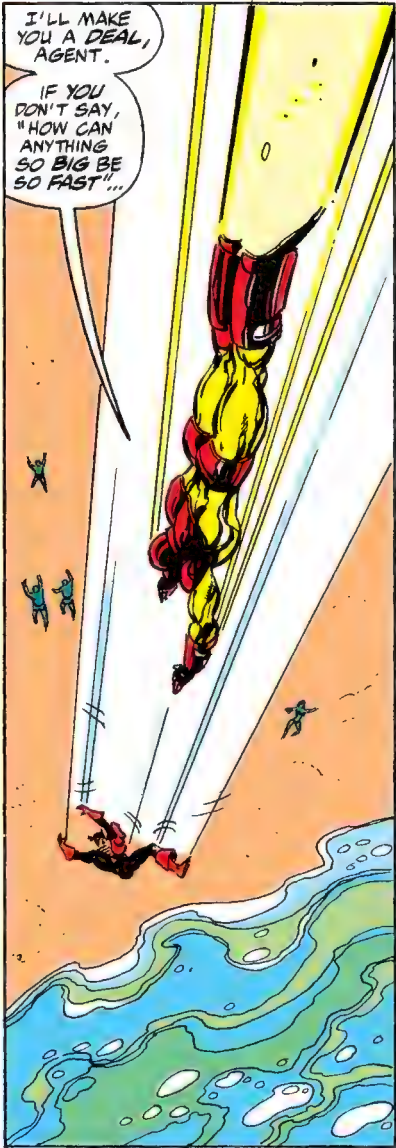
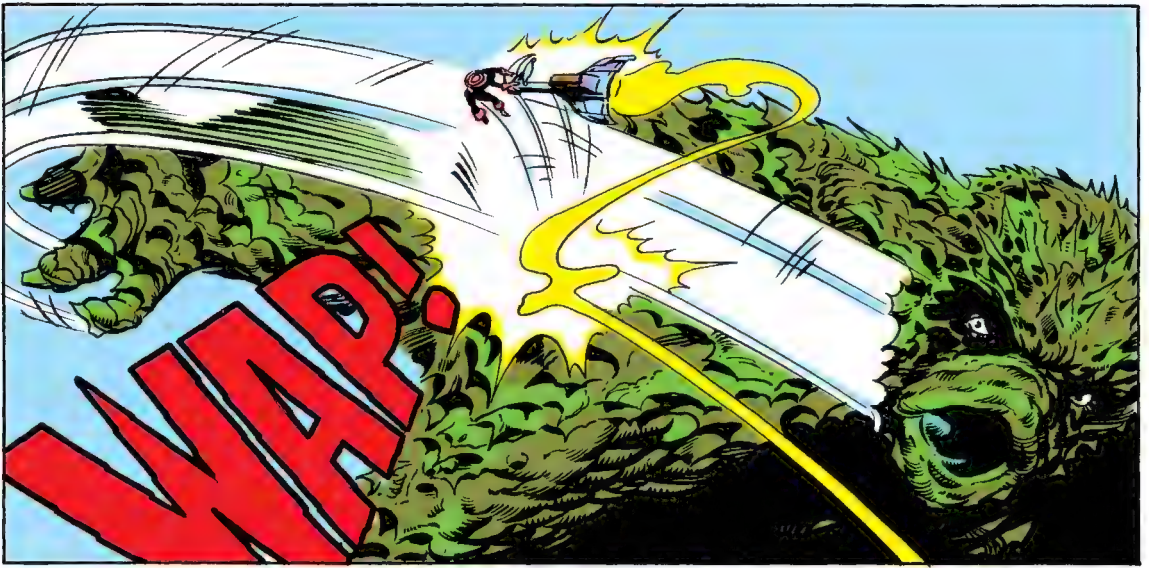
UH-OH...

HE'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

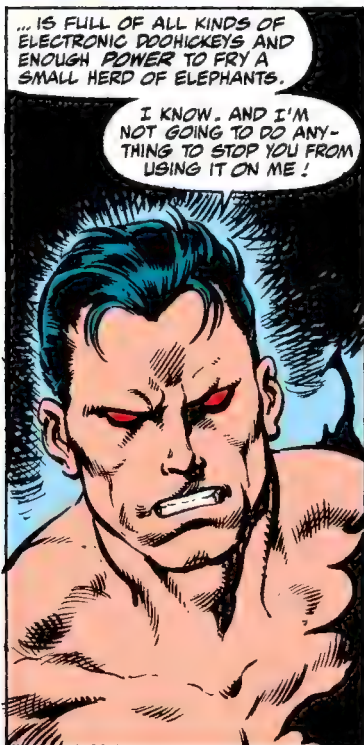
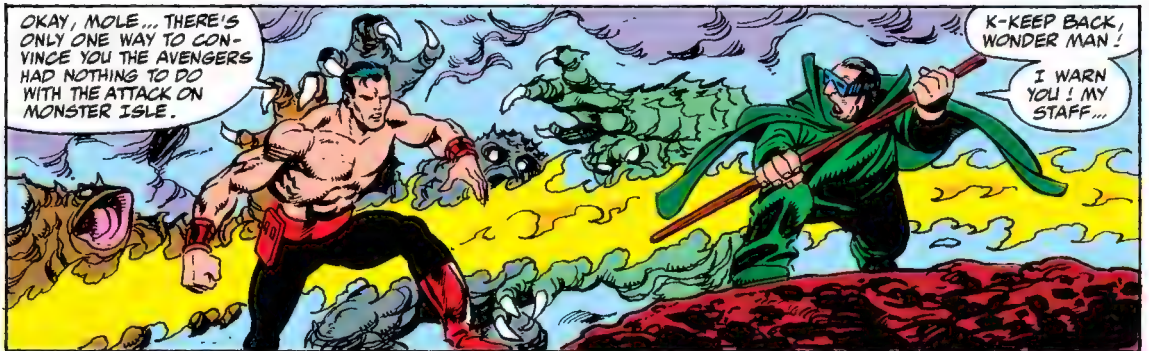
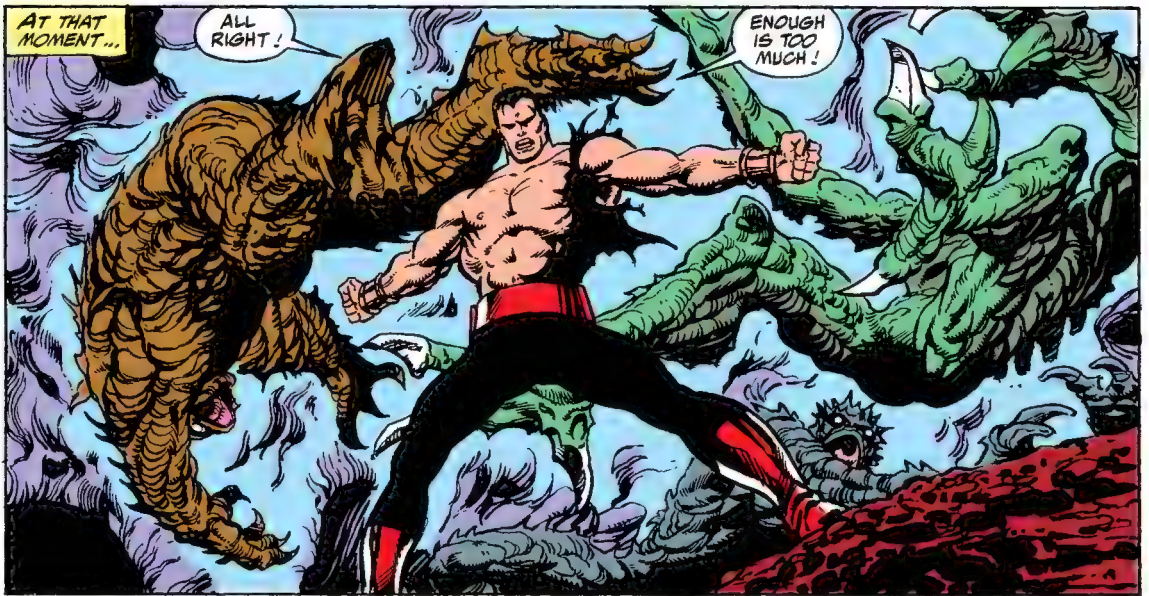




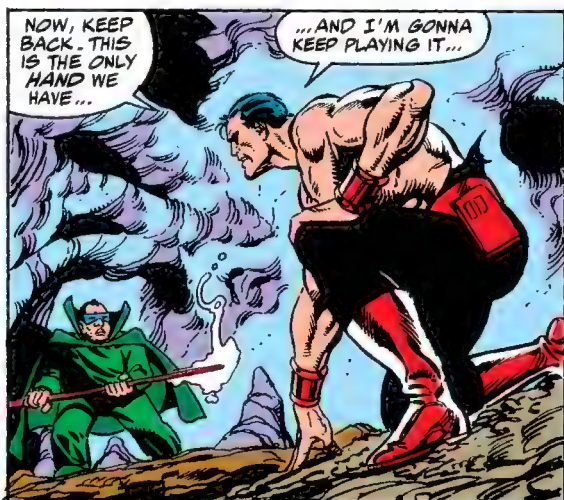
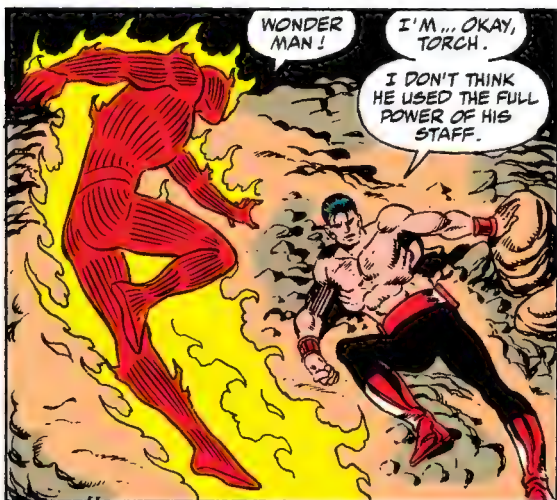
















BELIEVE YOU, WONDER MAN??

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU? WHY SHOULD I DOUBT THE EVIDENCE OF MY SENSES...

...AND BELIEVE IT WAS NOT THE AVENGERS WHO ATTACKED ME?



BECAUSE WE HAD NO REASON, MOLE!

NO MORE THAN WE HAD REASON TO ATTACK THE U-FOES -- BUT SOMEBODY MANAGED TO FOOL THEM INTO THINKING WE HAD.

JUST AS SOMEBODY HAS OBVIOUSLY FOOLED YOU!

THINK ABOUT IT, MOLE!

WOULD I REALLY STAND HERE AND TAKE THIS PUNISHMENT IF I WASN'T SPEAKING THE TRUTH?



PERHAPS...

PERHAPS NOT.

BUT... IF THERE IS THE LEAST CHANCE WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE...

PERHAPS I SHOULD WITHDRAW TO CONSIDER IT.



THE MOLE MAN IS NO ONE'S DUPE!



AND...

HEY!

IT'S TURNING AWAY, HEADING OUT TO SEA!

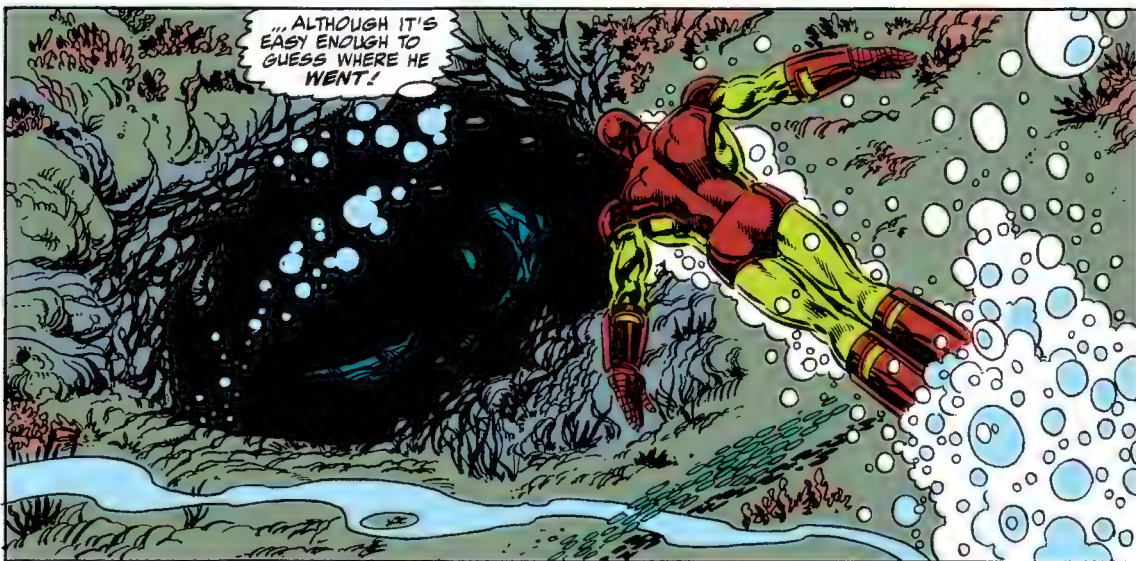
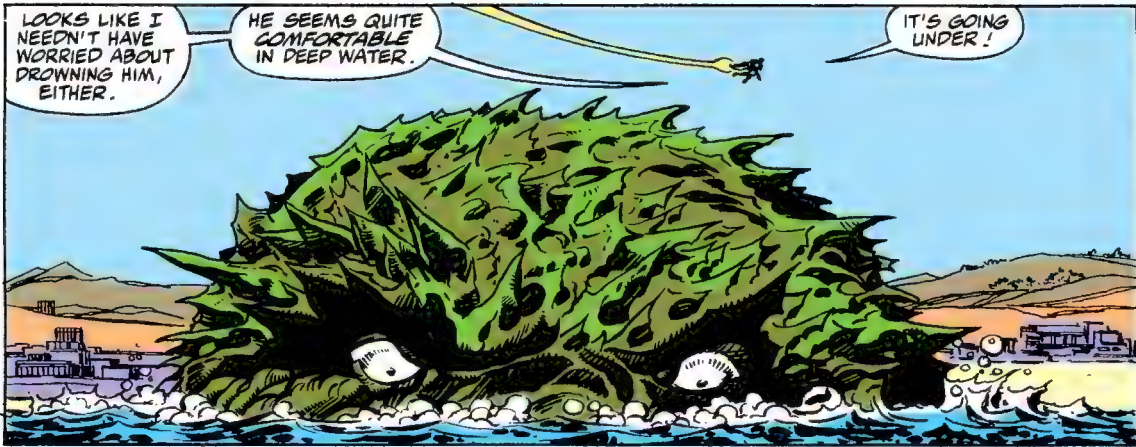
YES...

AND THE HYPER-SENSITIVE MONITORS IN MY HELMET ARE PICKING UP A SONIC SIGNAL OF SOME KIND.

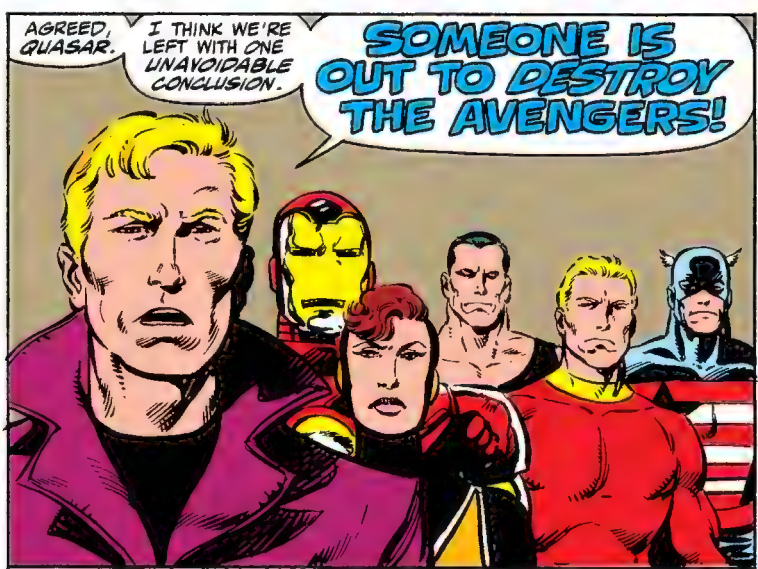
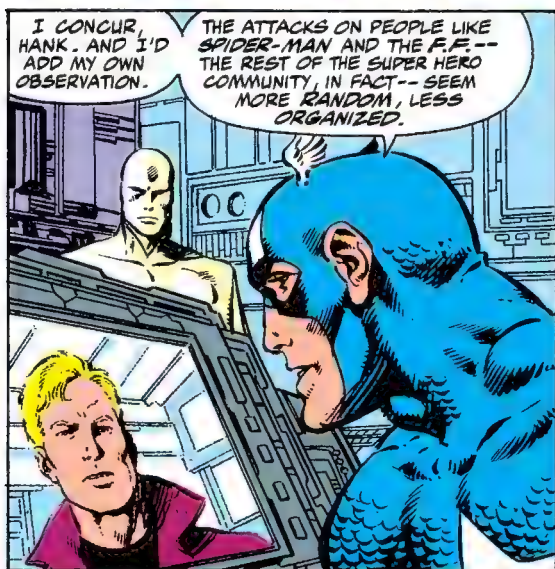
ON A FREQUENCY TOO HIGH FOR HUMAN EARS TO DETECT.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SOMEBODY'S CALLING OUR BOY HOME!









**NEXT:**  
**ACTS OF VENGEANCE!**  
CONTINUES IN:

CAPTAIN AMERICA #366  
AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #28  
QUASAR #6  
AVENGERS #313  
FANTASTIC FOUR #336  
IRON MAN #252

AND CONCLUDES  
NEXT MONTH IN  
AVENGERS WEST  
COAST #55!

DON'T DARE MISS...

**THE BREAKING STRAIN!**



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ACTS of VENGEANCE!

# AVENGERS<sup>®</sup>

THE  
**ULTIMATE**  
SUPER-VILLAIN  
TEAM-UP!



PLUS  
BEGINNING--  
THE  
**FATE**  
OF THE  
**SCARLET**  
**WITCH!**

RAY FALMER



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

# THIEVES HONOR

THE PLACE: JUST  
OUTSIDE AVENGERS  
PARK, MANHATTAN.

THE TIME: NOW.

THE SITUATION:  
EXPLOSIVE!



PAUL RYAN & TOM PALMER  
ARTISTS

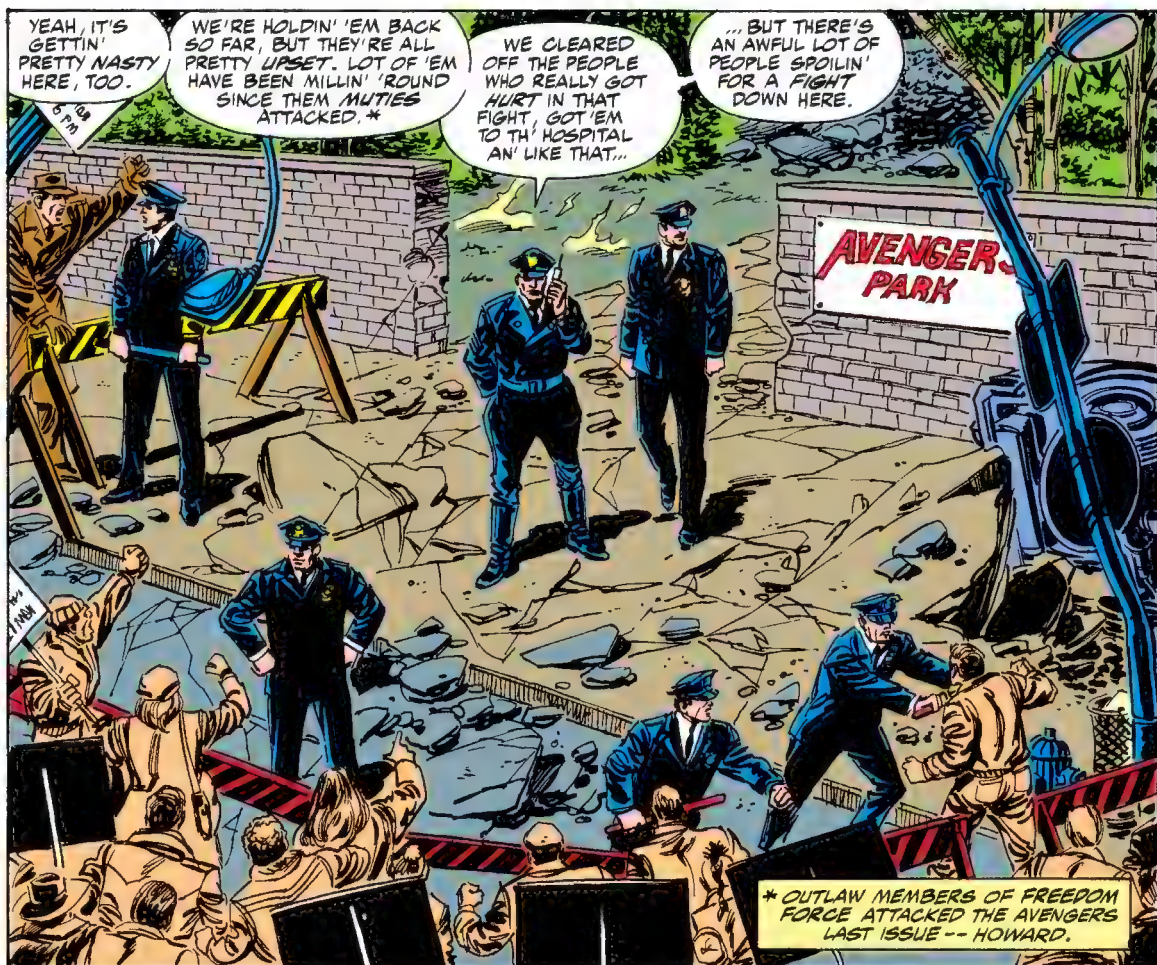
JOHN BYRNE  
WRITER

BILL OAKLEY ~ LETTERER  
MIKE ROCKWITZ ~ COLORIST

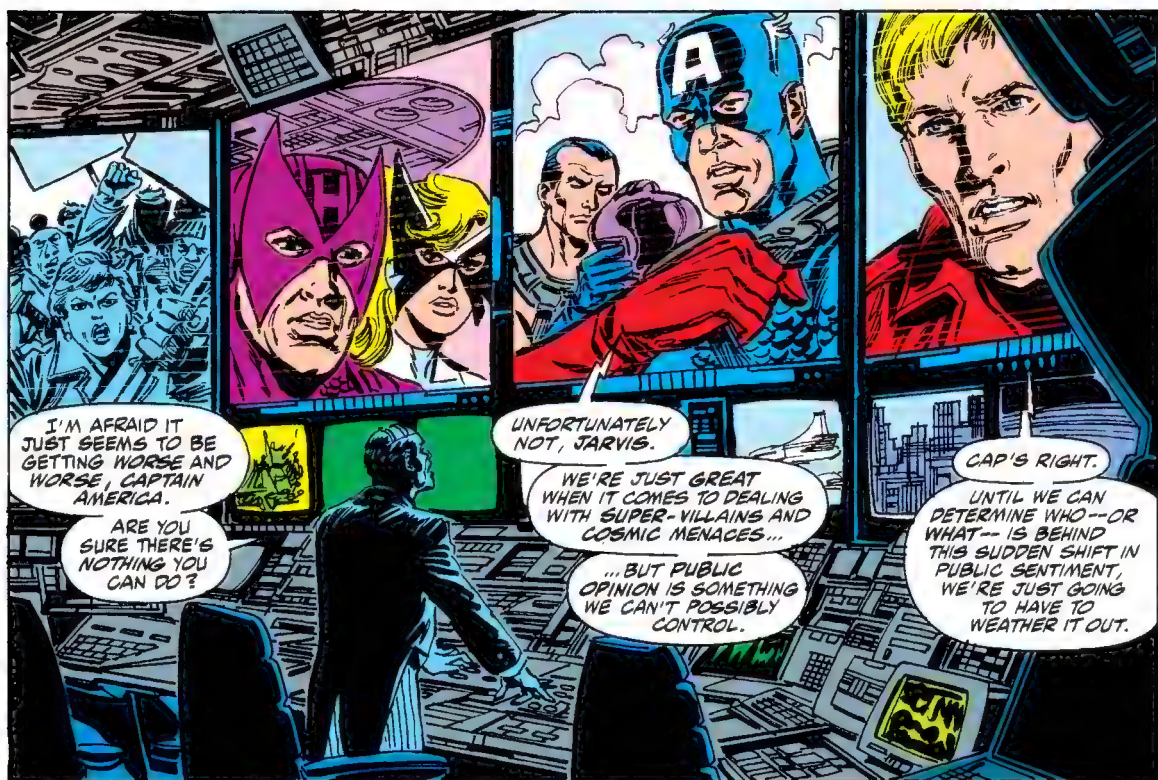
HOWARD MACKIE  
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO  
ED. IN CHIEF









I'M AFRAID IT JUST SEEMS TO BE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO?

UNFORTUNATELY NOT, JARVIS.

WE'RE JUST GREAT WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH SUPER-VILLAINS AND COSMIC MENACES...

...BUT PUBLIC OPINION IS SOMETHING WE CAN'T POSSIBLY CONTROL.

CAP'S RIGHT.

UNTIL WE CAN DETERMINE WHO--OR WHAT-- IS BEHIND THIS SUDDEN SHIFT IN PUBLIC SENTIMENT, WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WEATHER IT OUT.



I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, DR. PYM.

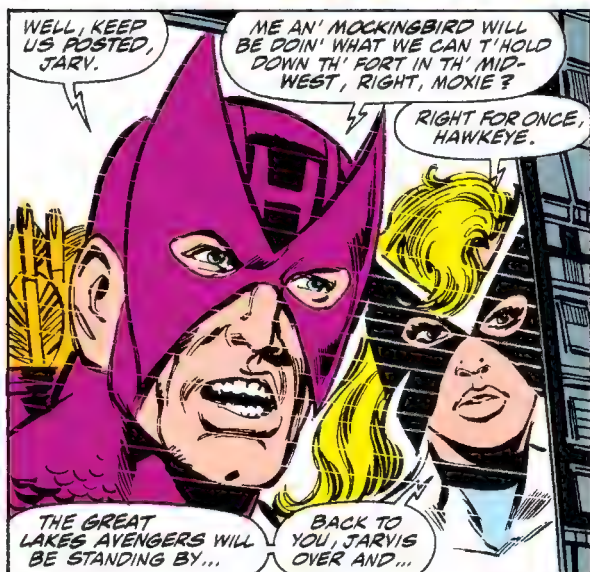
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU EXPECT TO BE OUT AT HYDRO-BASE, CAPTAIN?

QUITE SOME TIME YET, JARVIS. WONDER MAN AND THE VISION AND I HAVE BARELY BEGUN OUR INSPECTION.

IT WILL BE SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE WE HAVE BEGUN TO ASSESS THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE SUFFERED BY OUR FORMER HEADQUARTERS WHEN IT WAS SUNK.\*

WE WILL INFORM YOU OF OUR PROGRESS. AVENGERS OUT...

\* IN AVENGERS #311 --HOWARD AGAIN.



WELL, KEEP US POSTED, JARV.

ME AN' MOCKINGBIRD WILL BE DOIN' WHAT WE CAN T'HOLD DOWN TH' FORT IN TH' MID-WEST, RIGHT, MOXIE?

RIGHT FOR ONCE, HAWKEYE.

THE GREAT LAKES AVENGERS WILL BE STANDING BY...

BACK TO YOU, JARVIS OVER AND...



...OUT.

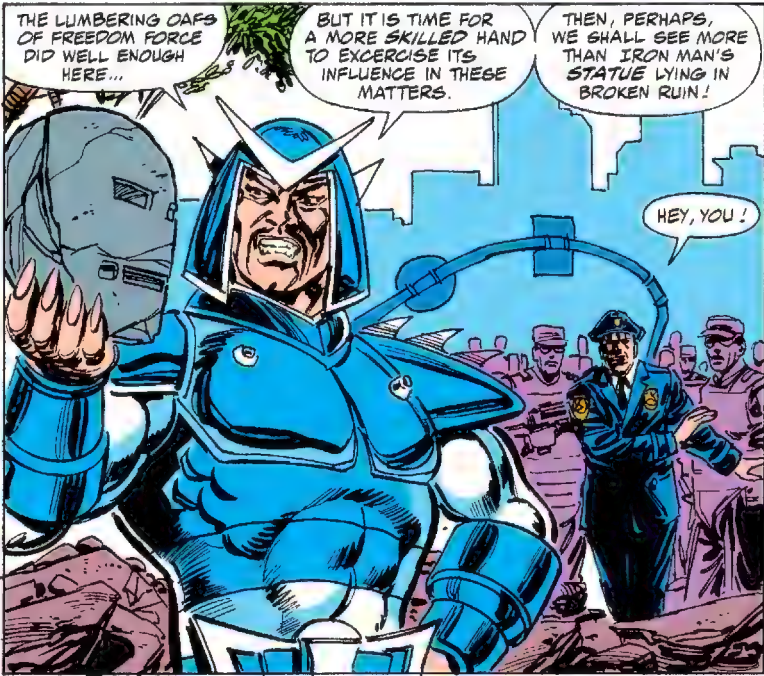
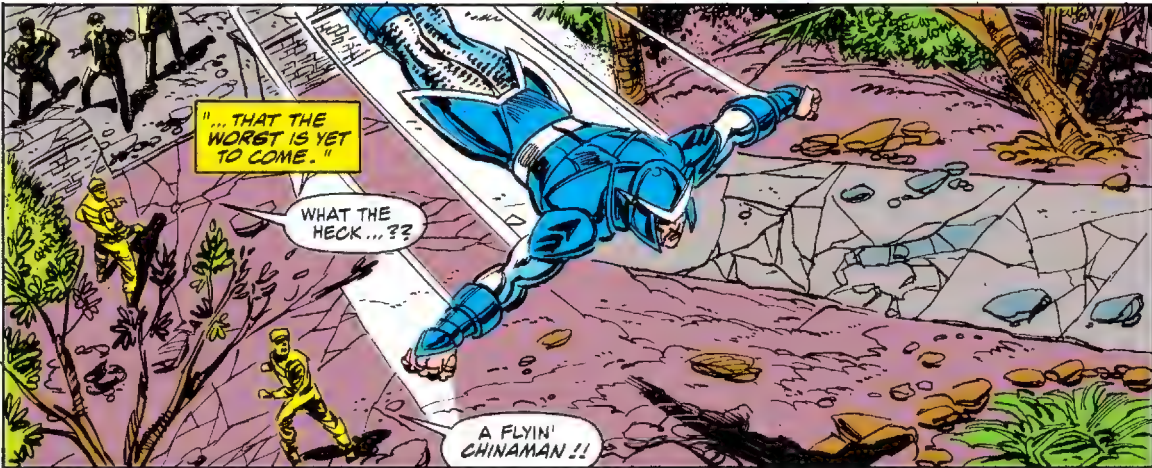
BUCK UP, JARVIS. THINGS LOOK BAD, I KNOW...

... BUT THE AVENGERS HAVE COME THROUGH WORSE.

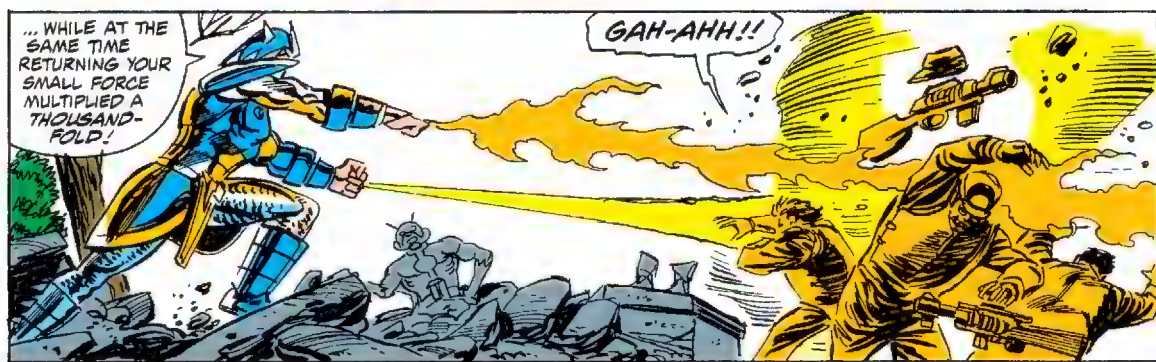
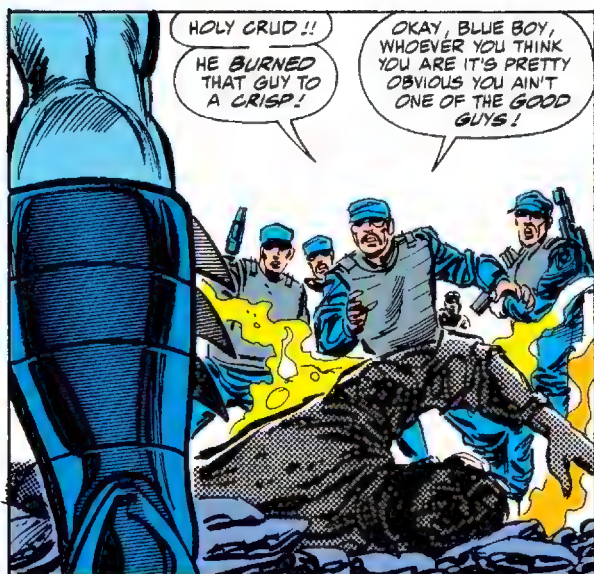
I'D LIKE TO THINK SO, DOCTOR.

I'M JUST HAVING DIFFICULTY SHAKING THE FEELING...

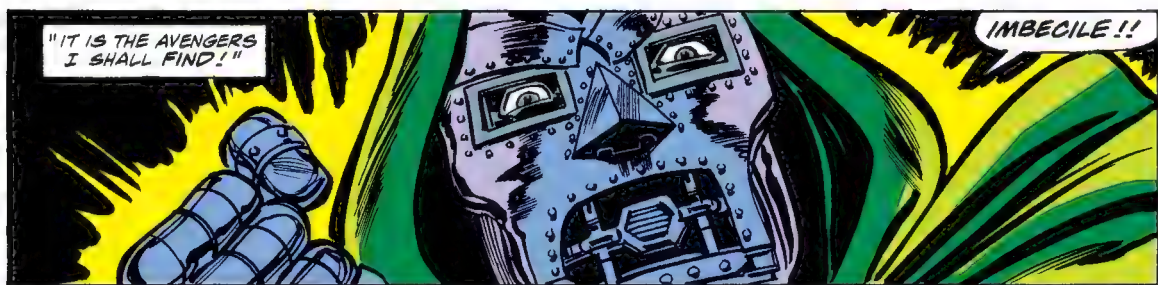






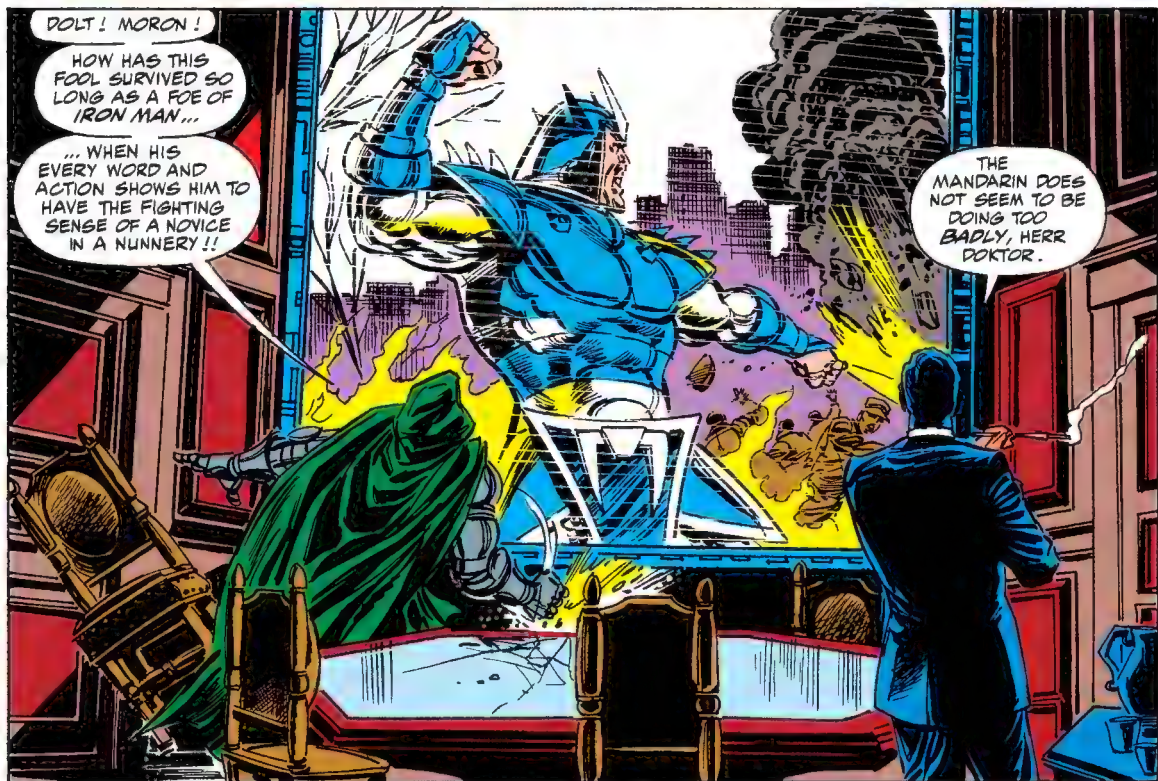






"IT IS THE AVENGERS  
I SHALL FIND!"

IMBECILE!!



DOLT! MORON!

HOW HAS THIS  
FOOL SURVIVED SO  
LONG AS A Foe OF  
IRON MAN...

... WHEN HIS  
EVERY WORD AND  
ACTION SHOWS HIM TO  
HAVE THE FIGHTING  
SENSE OF A NOVICE  
IN A NUNNERY!!

THE  
MANDARIN DOES  
NOT SEEM TO BE  
DOING TOO  
BADLY, HERR  
DOKTOR.



PERHAPS YOU  
UNDERESTIMATE  
HIS PROWESS.

UNDERESTIMATE?

LOOK AT HIM!  
SEE HOW THE FOOL  
WASTES HIS POWER  
ON MERE SHOW!

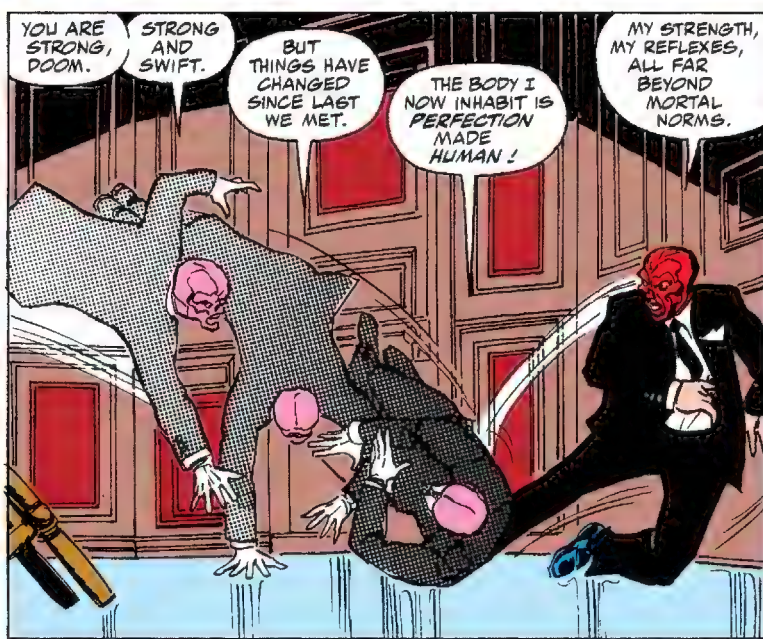
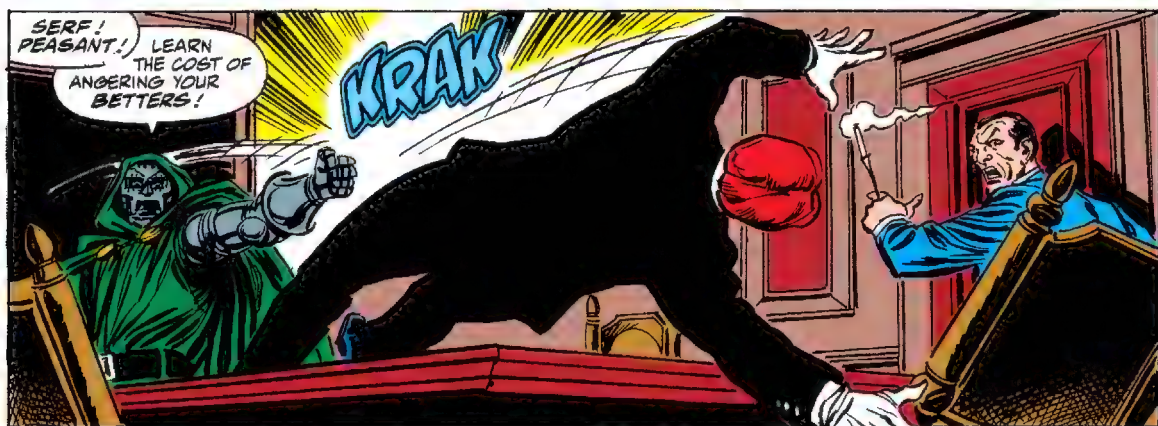
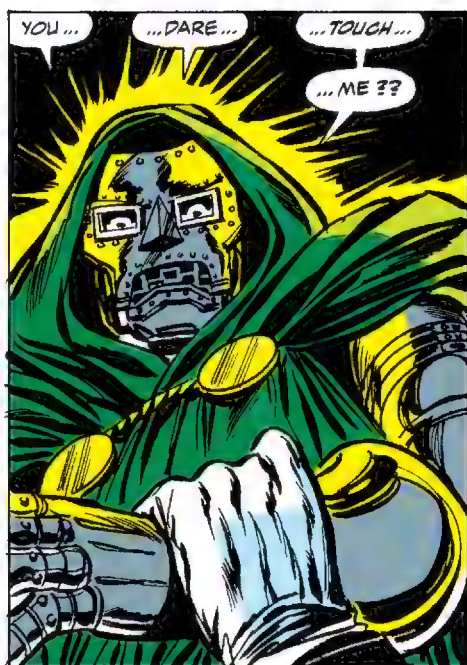
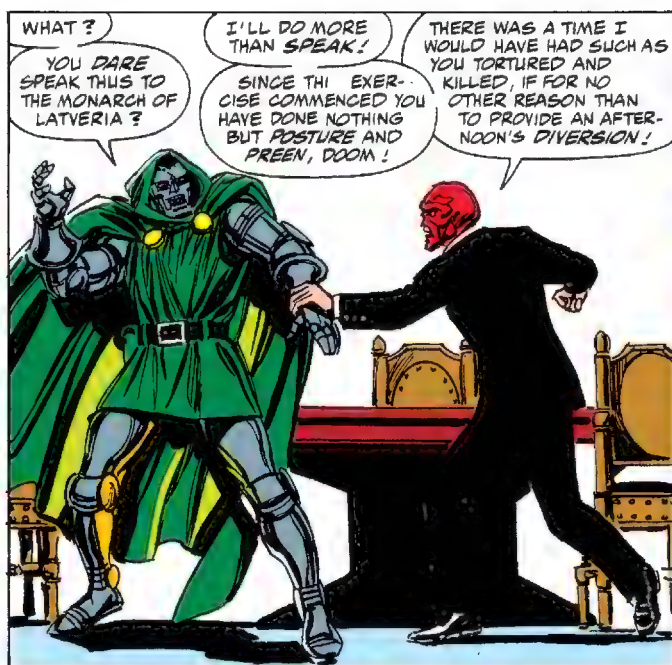


WERE I THERE, ALREADY I  
WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE  
AVENGERS TO A MERE,  
GAPING, SMOLDERING  
CRATER!

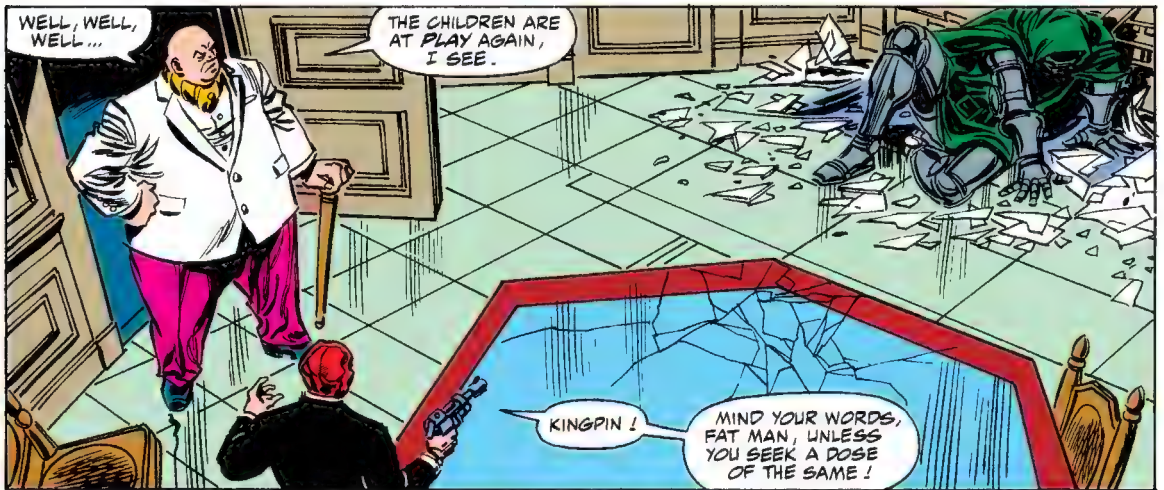
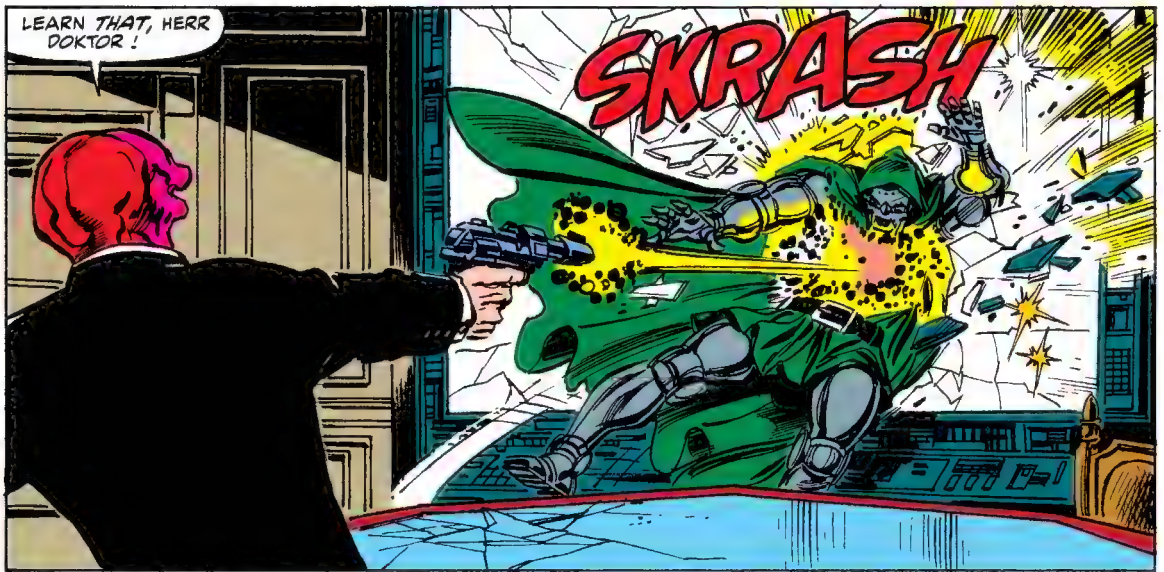
WOULD YOU INDEED,  
VON DOOM?

BRASH  
WORDS FROM ONE  
SO OFTEN EVICTED  
FROM HIS OWN  
KINGDOM!













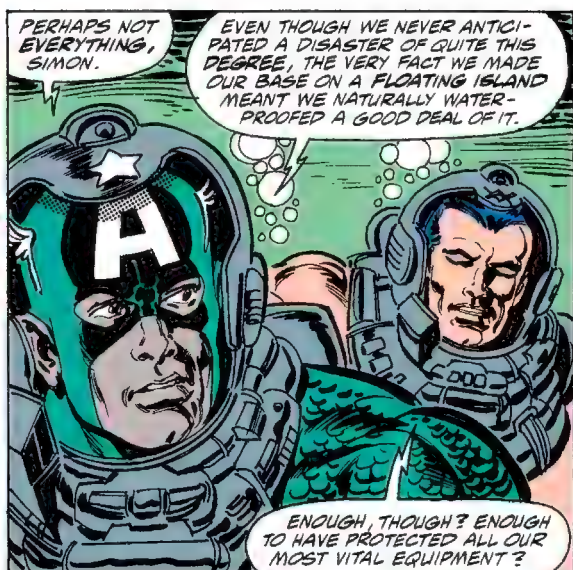
"THE KINGPIN OF CRIME PARES ALL!"

THERE IT IS!

LOOKS LIKE OUR SOUNDINGS WERE CORRECT. THE MANSION IS MORE OR LESS IN ONE PIECE!

FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT WILL DO.

EVERYTHING'S FLOODED... WRECKED.



PERHAPS NOT EVERYTHING, SIMON.

EVEN THOUGH WE NEVER ANTICIPATED A DISASTER OF QUITE THIS DEGREE, THE VERY FACT WE MADE OUR BASE ON A FLOATING ISLAND MEANT WE NATURALLY WATER-PROOFED A GOOD DEAL OF IT.

ENOUGH, THOUGH? ENOUGH TO HAVE PROTECTED ALL OUR MOST VITAL EQUIPMENT?

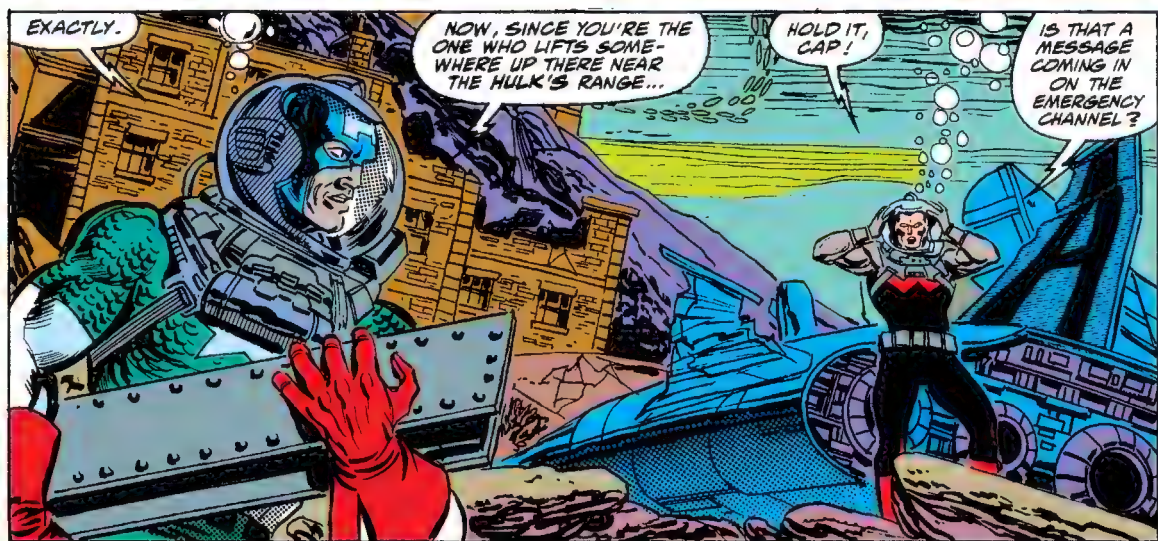


THAT WE'LL ONLY FIND OUT ONCE WE START MAJOR SALVAGE OPERATIONS.

I KNOW.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO ASSESS THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE AND SAVE WHAT WE CAN MOVE WITHOUT EQUIPMENT.

AND WE'RE NOT HERE TO DO THAT TODAY.



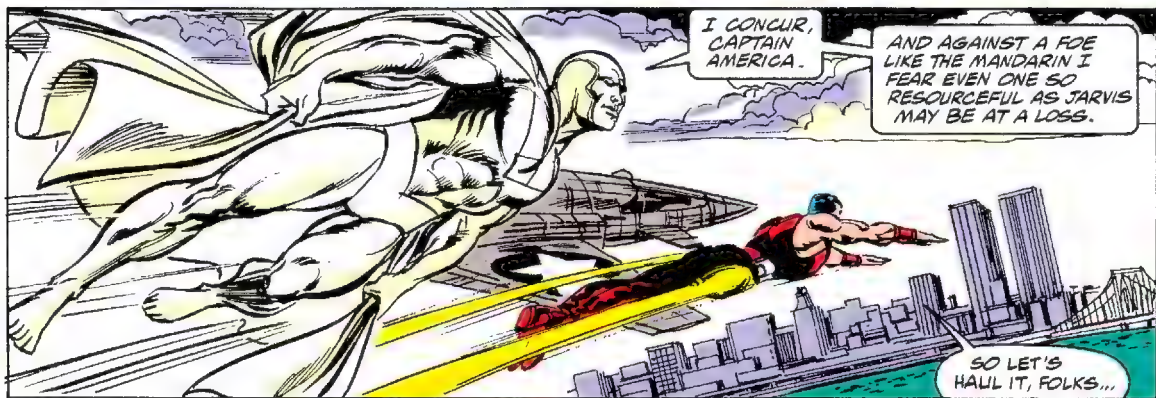
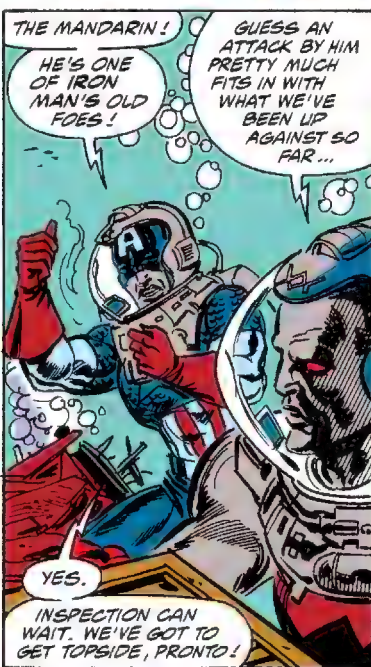
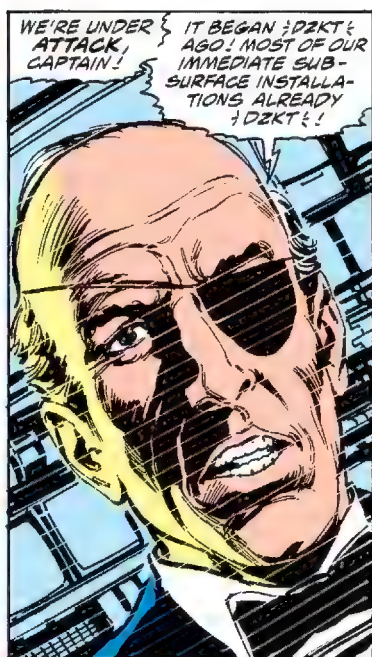
EXACTLY.

NOW, SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LIFTS SOMEWHERE UP THERE NEAR THE HULK'S RANGE...

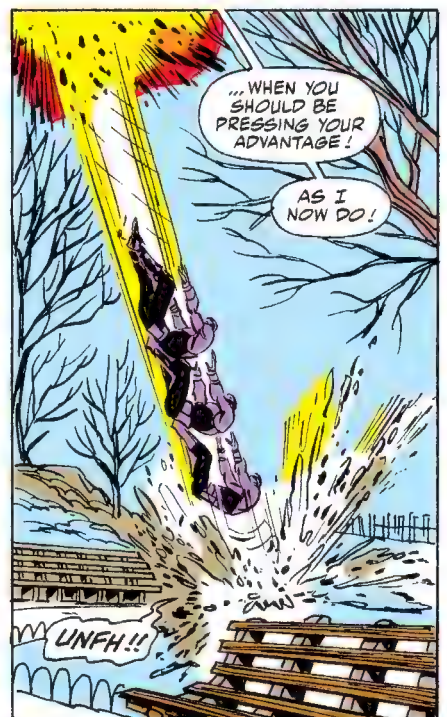
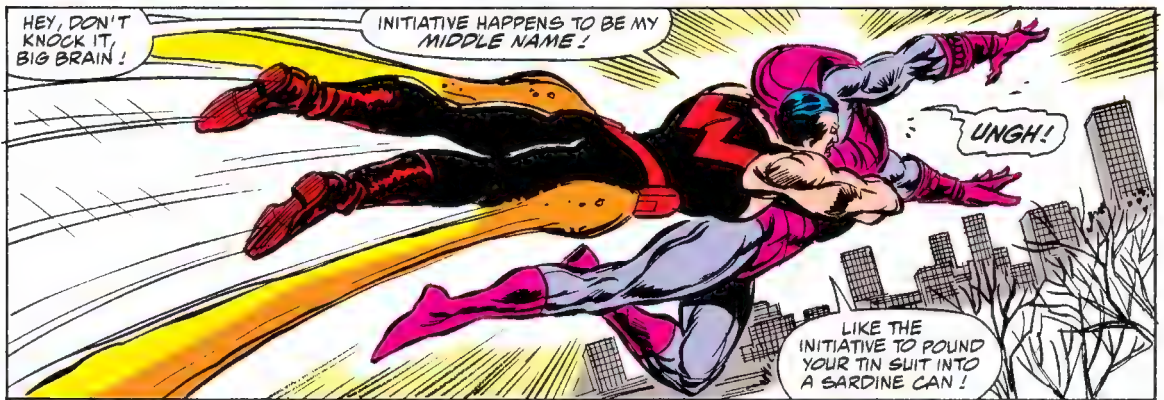
HOLD IT, CAP!

IS THAT A MESSAGE COMING IN ON THE EMERGENCY CHANNEL?













YOU WOULD DO WELL TO LEARN FROM YOUR OWN PRONOUNCEMENTS, WIZARD!

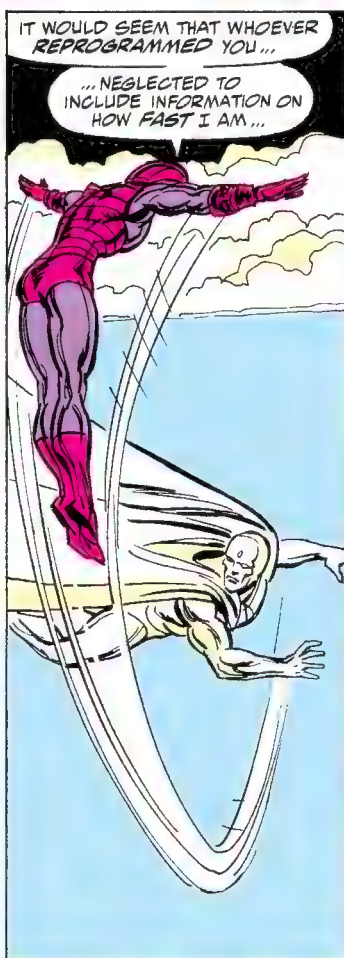
YOU WILL NOT FIND THE VISION ONE FOR IDLE BLUSTER, OR...



NO?

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR RECENT MISADVENTURES, ANDROID. HOW YOU WERE DIS-ASSEMBLED...

YOUR MEMORY BANKS ERASED.



IT WOULD SEEM THAT WHOEVER REPROGRAMMED YOU...

...NEGLECTED TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON HOW FAST I AM...

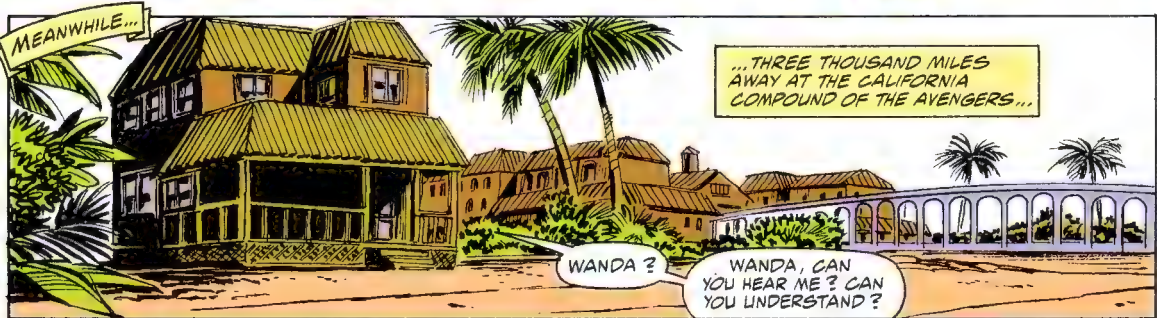


AND THEREFORE HOW LETHAL!

WONDER GLOVES...

PENETRATING MY PARTIALLY INSUBSTANTIAL FORM...

POWER SURGE...



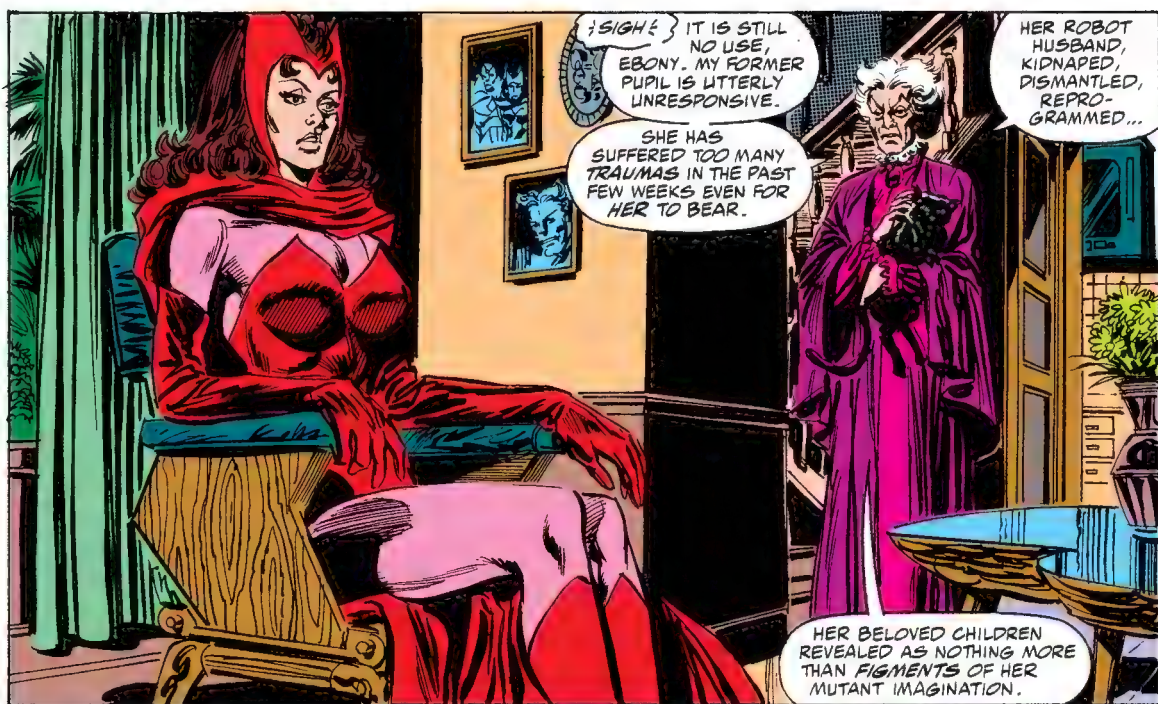
MEANWHILE...

...THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY AT THE CALIFORNIA COMPOUND OF THE AVENGERS...

WANDA?

WANDA, CAN YOU HEAR ME? CAN YOU UNDERSTAND?





{SIGH} IT IS STILL NO USE, EBONY. MY FORMER PUPIL IS UTTERLY UNRESPONSIVE.

SHE HAS SUFFERED TOO MANY TRAUMAS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS EVEN FOR HER TO BEAR.

HER ROBOT HUSBAND, KIDNAPED, DISMANTLED, REPRO-GRAMMED...

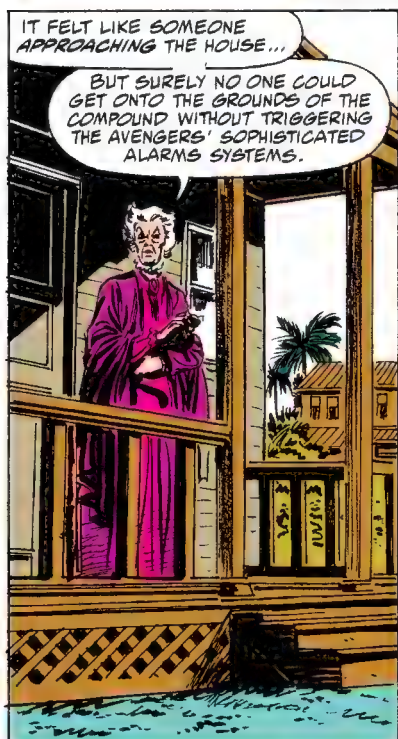
HER BELOVED CHILDREN REVEALED AS NOTHING MORE THAN FIGMENTS OF HER MUTANT IMAGINATION.



AND, MOST RECENTLY, HAVING HER MIND STOLEN FROM HER BY THE DEVIANT KNOWN AS GHAI'R, PART OF HIS PLAN TO TURN HER INTO ONE OF THE BRIDES OF...

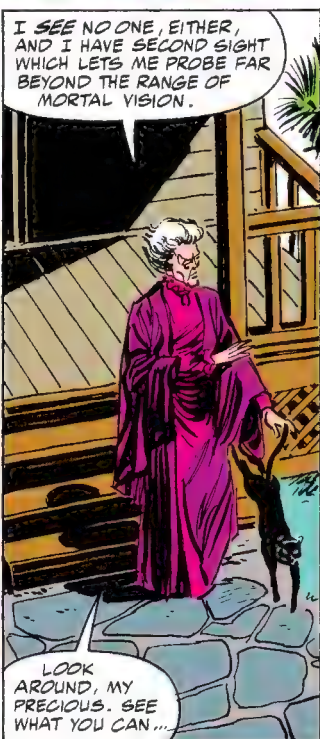
HM?

YES, EBONY, I SENSED SOMETHING, TOO.



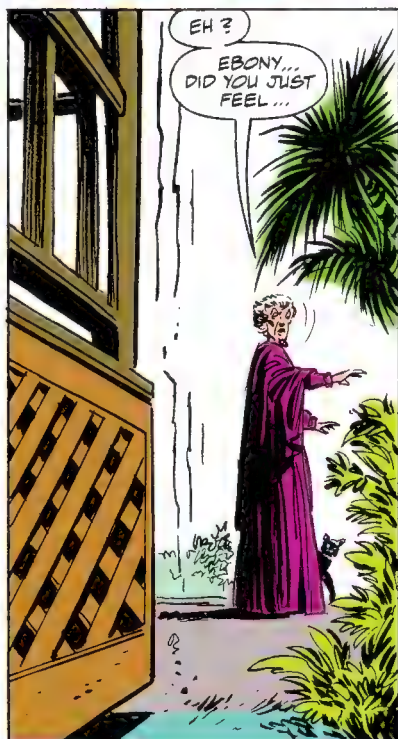
IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE APPROACHING THE HOUSE...

BUT SURELY NO ONE COULD GET ONTO THE GROUNDS OF THE COMPOUND WITHOUT TRIGGERING THE AVENGERS' SOPHISTICATED ALARMS SYSTEMS.



I SEE NO ONE, EITHER, AND I HAVE SECOND SIGHT WHICH LETS ME PROBE FAR BEYOND THE RANGE OF MORTAL VISION.

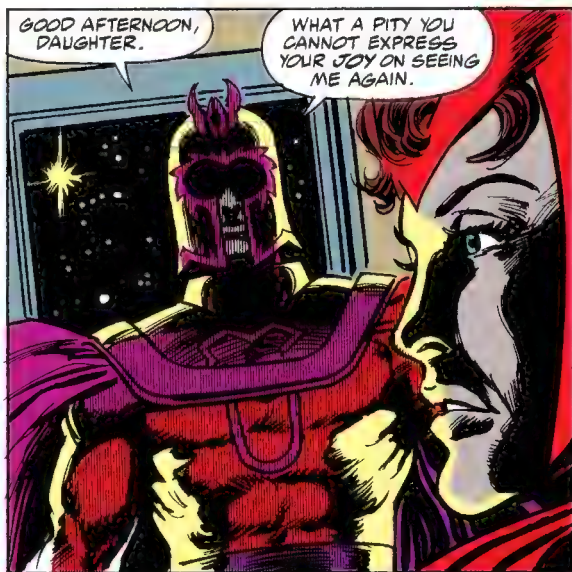
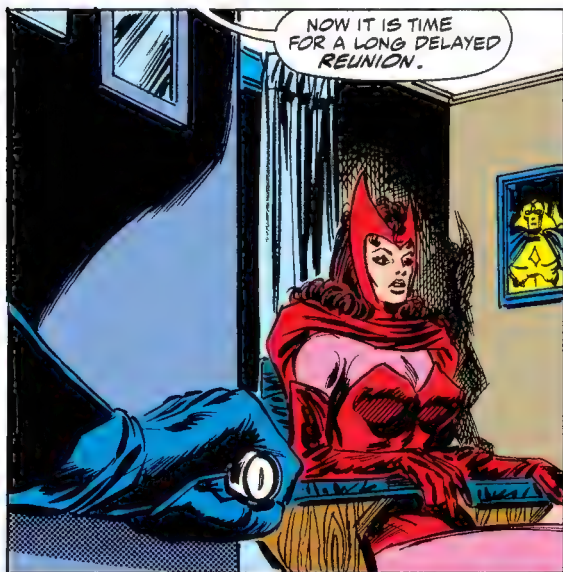
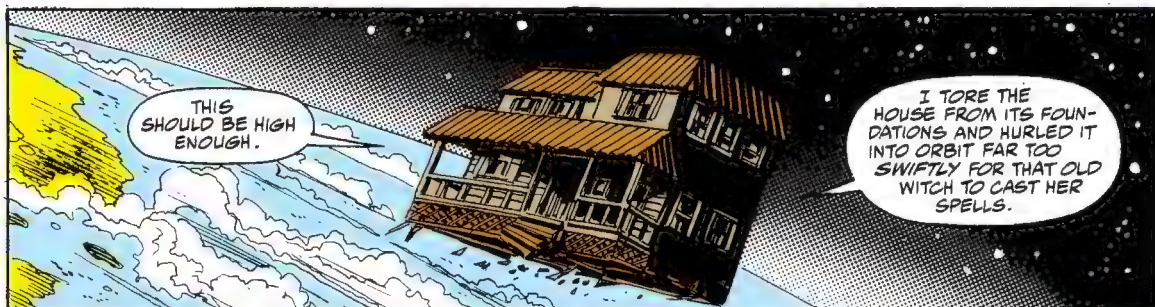
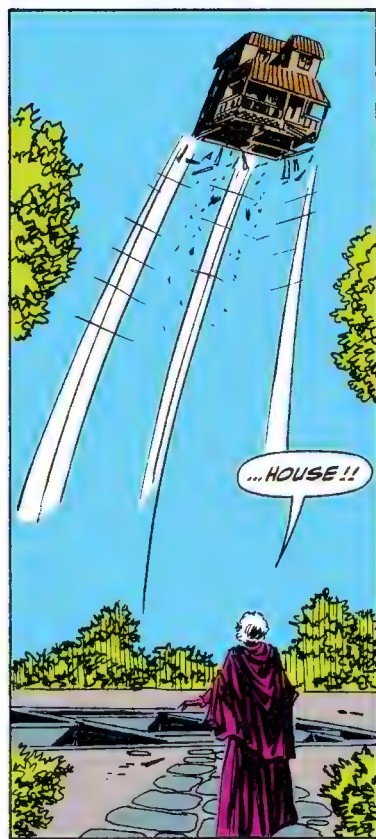
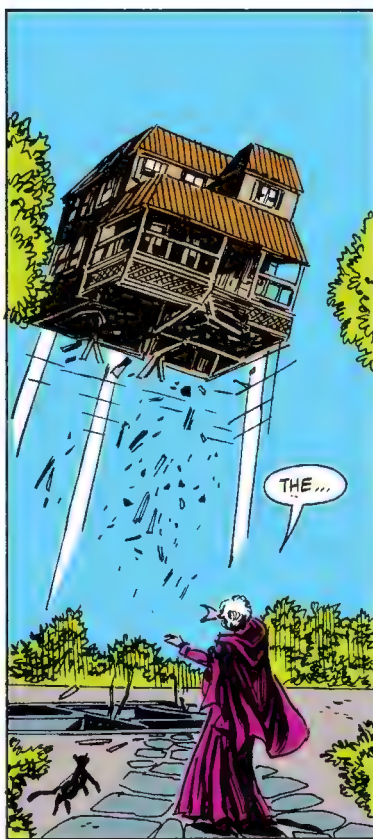
LOOK AROUND, MY PRECIOUS. SEE WHAT YOU CAN...



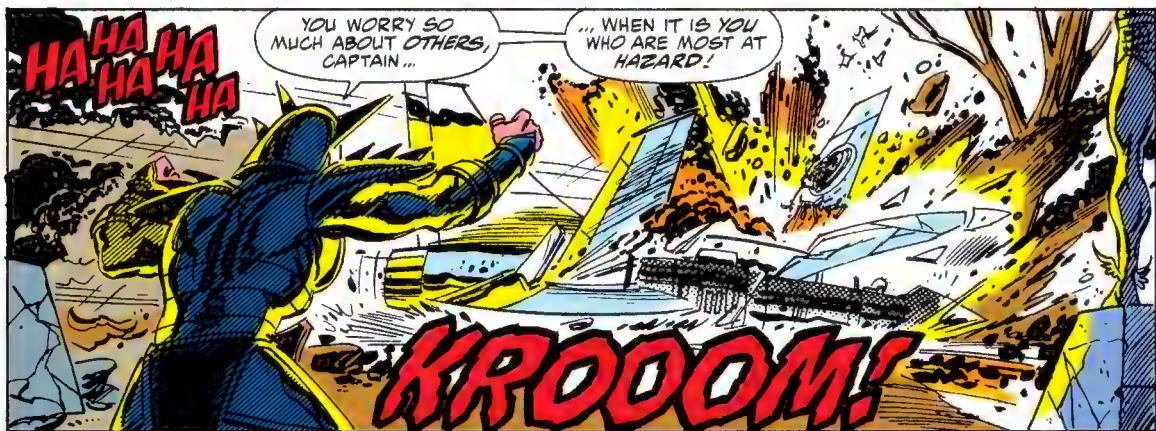
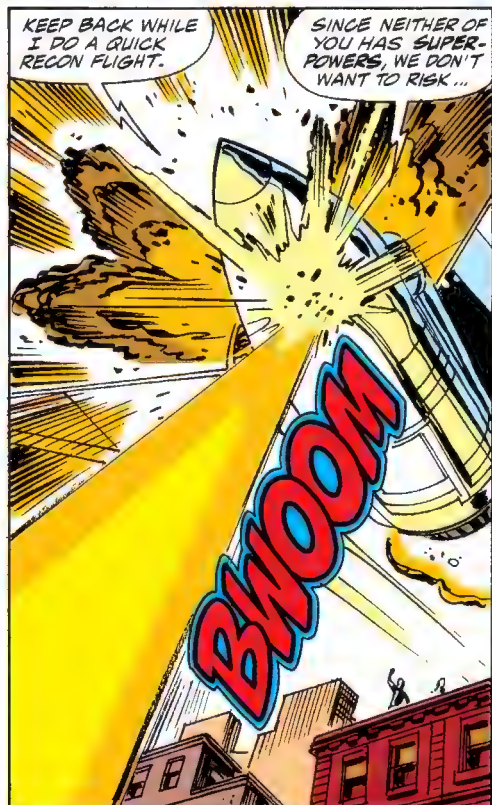
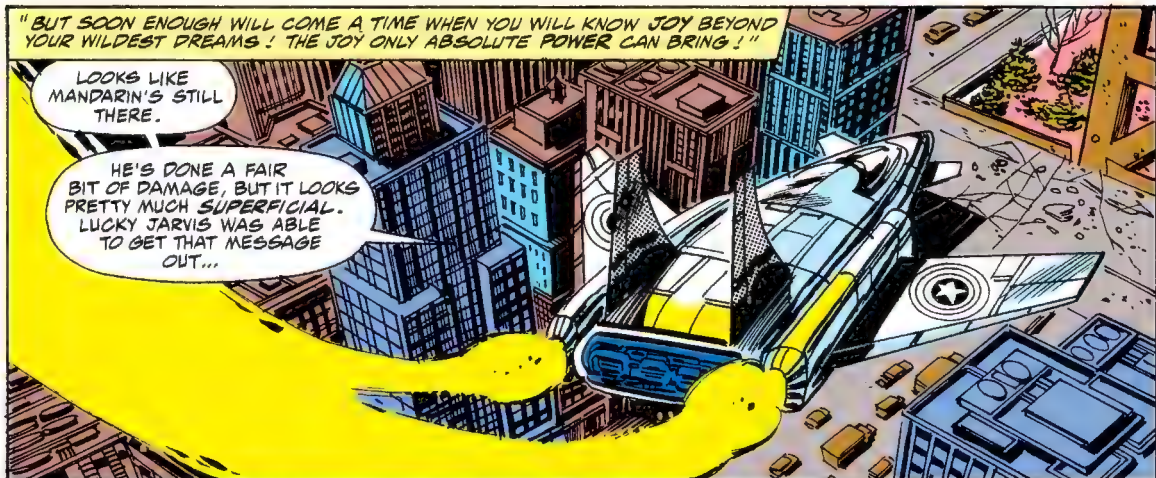
EH?

EBONY... DID YOU JUST FEEL...

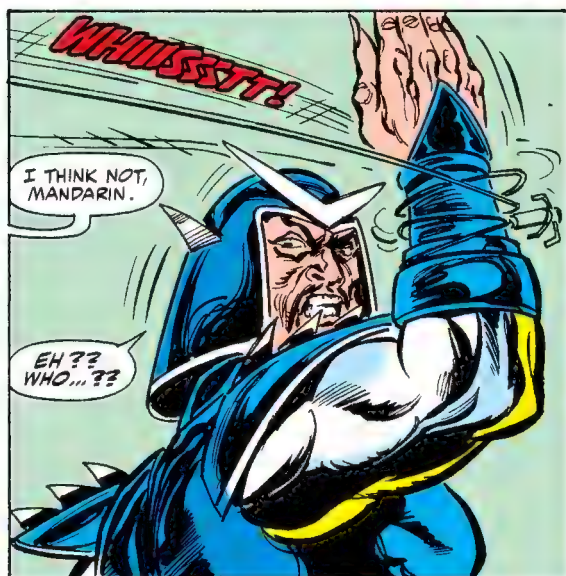




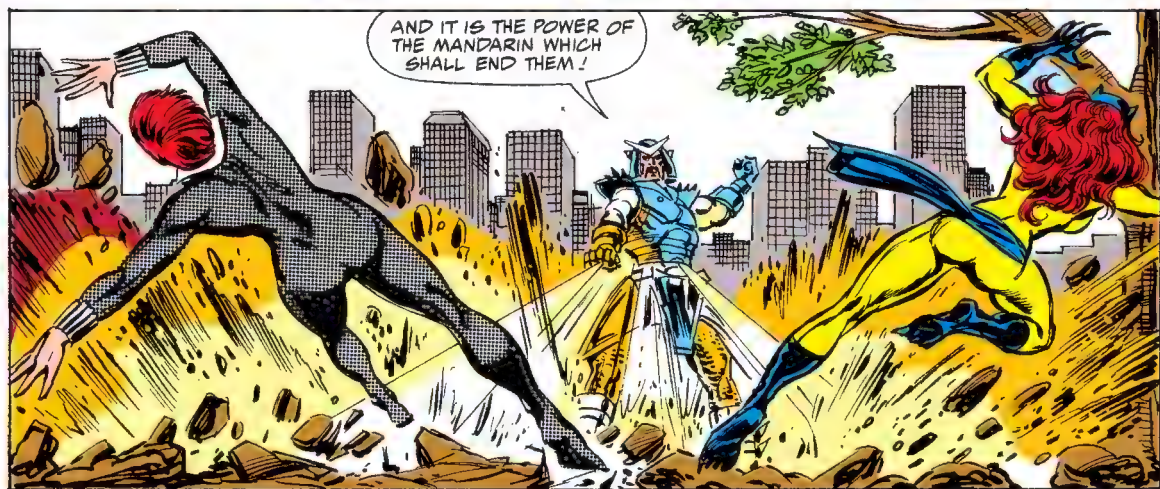
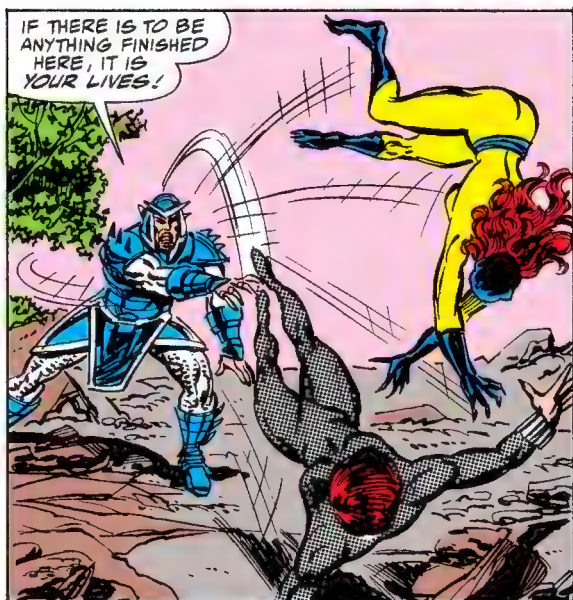
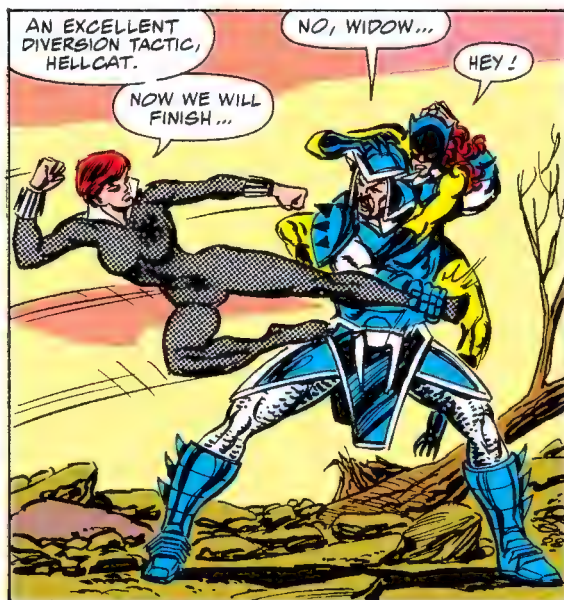




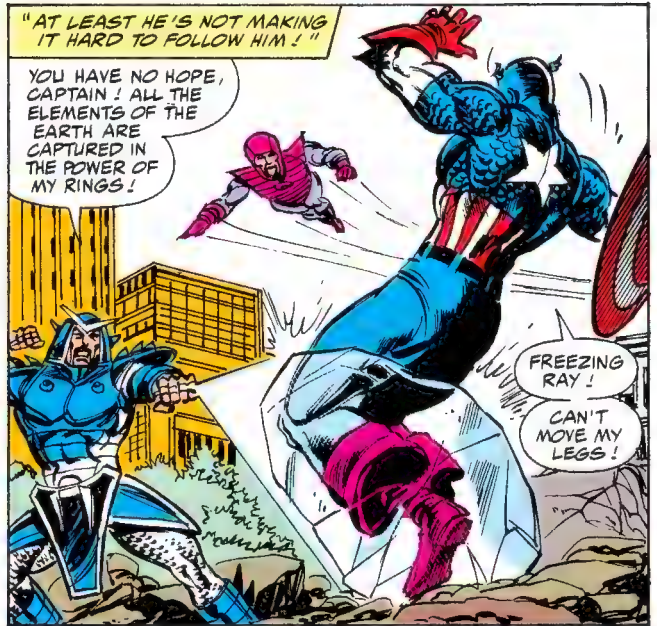
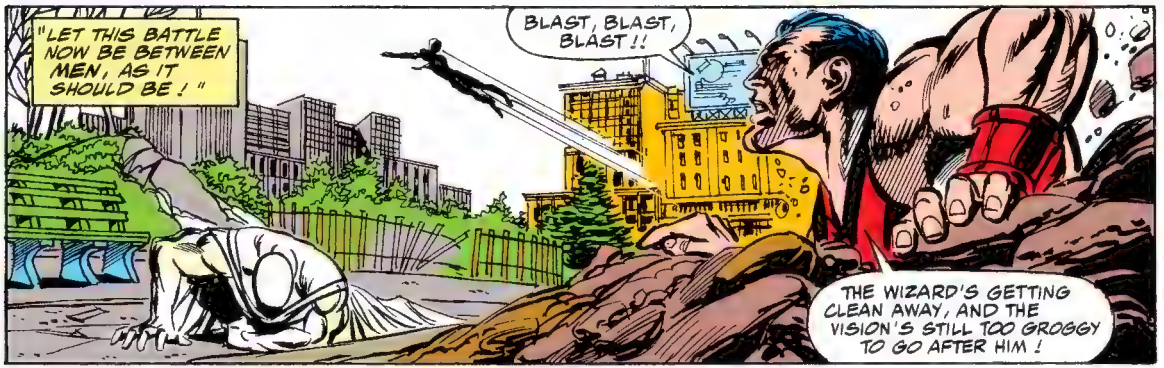




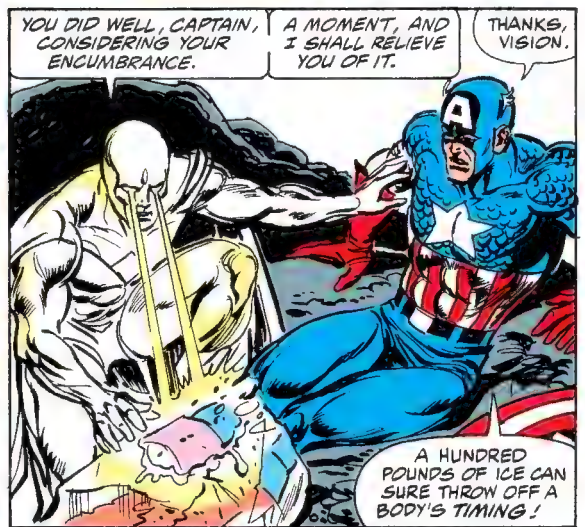
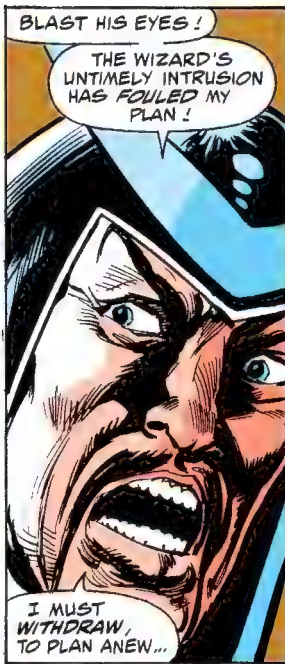




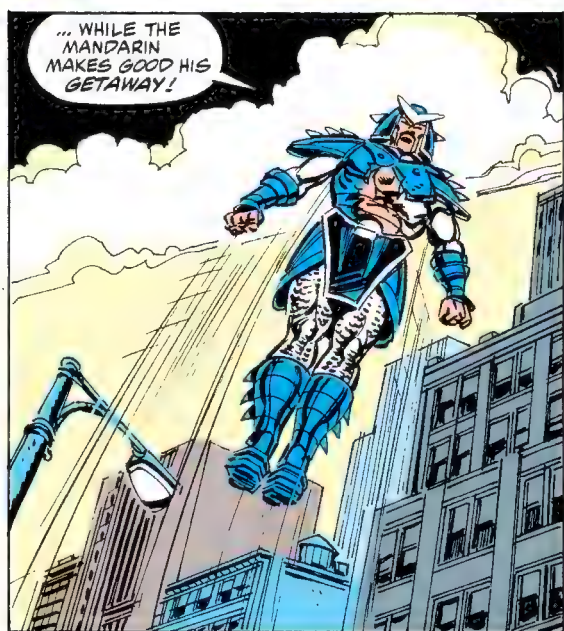
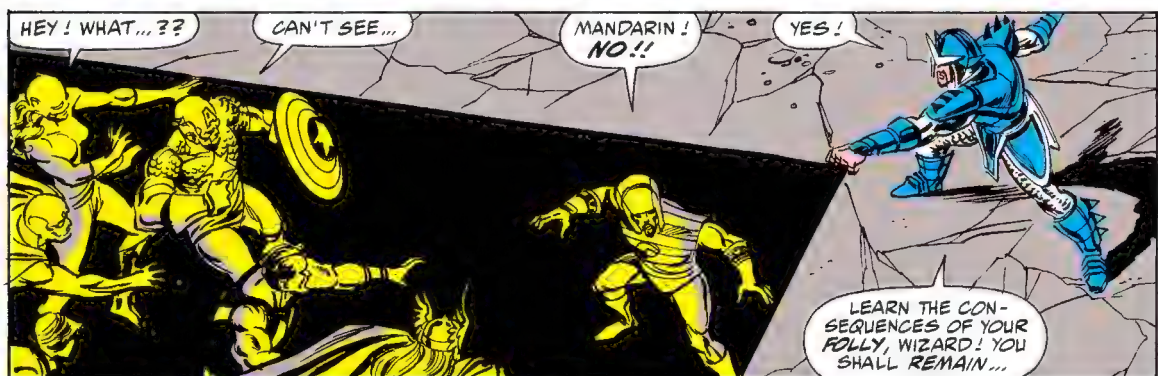




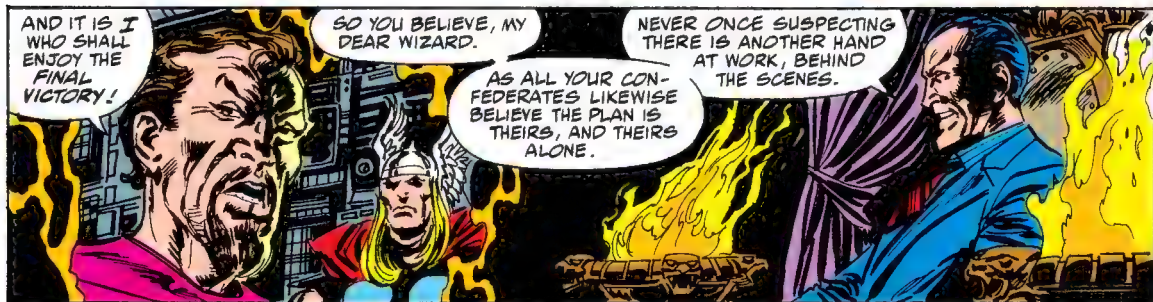
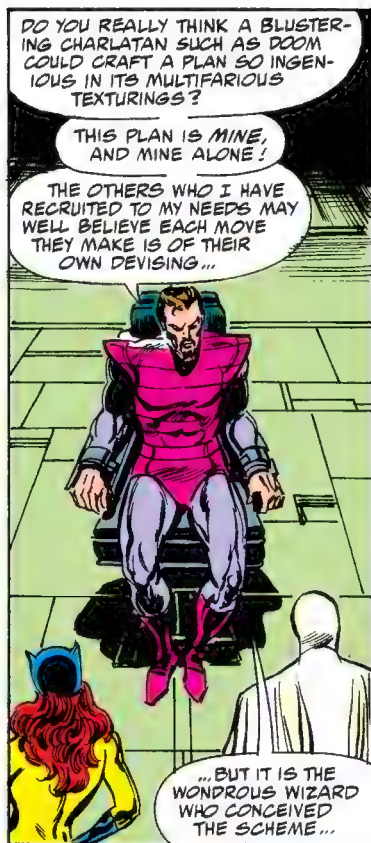


















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# AVENGERS WEST COAST

ACTS of VENGEANCE!



"LET THERE  
BE AN  
ENDING!"



STAN LEE PRESENTS THE SOUL-SHATTERING CONCLUSION OF  
**ACTS OF VENGEANCE...**

# THE BREAKING STRAIN

WRITTEN AND PENCILED BY  
JOHN BYRNE

INKED BY PAUL RYAN

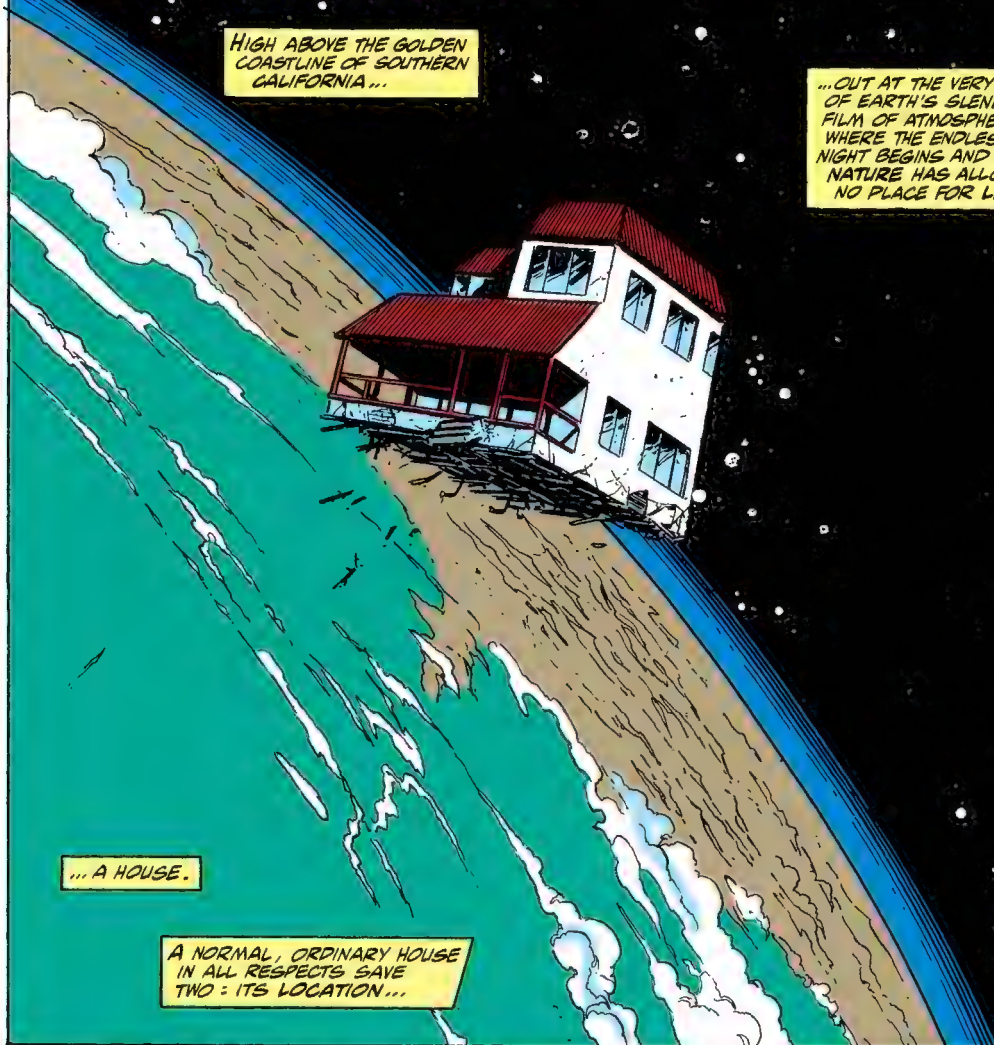
COLORS BY BOB SHAREN  
LETTERED BY BILL OAKLEY  
EDITED BY HOWARD MACKIE  
TOM DEFALCO - ED. IN CHIEF

HIGH ABOVE THE GOLDEN  
COASTLINE OF SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA...

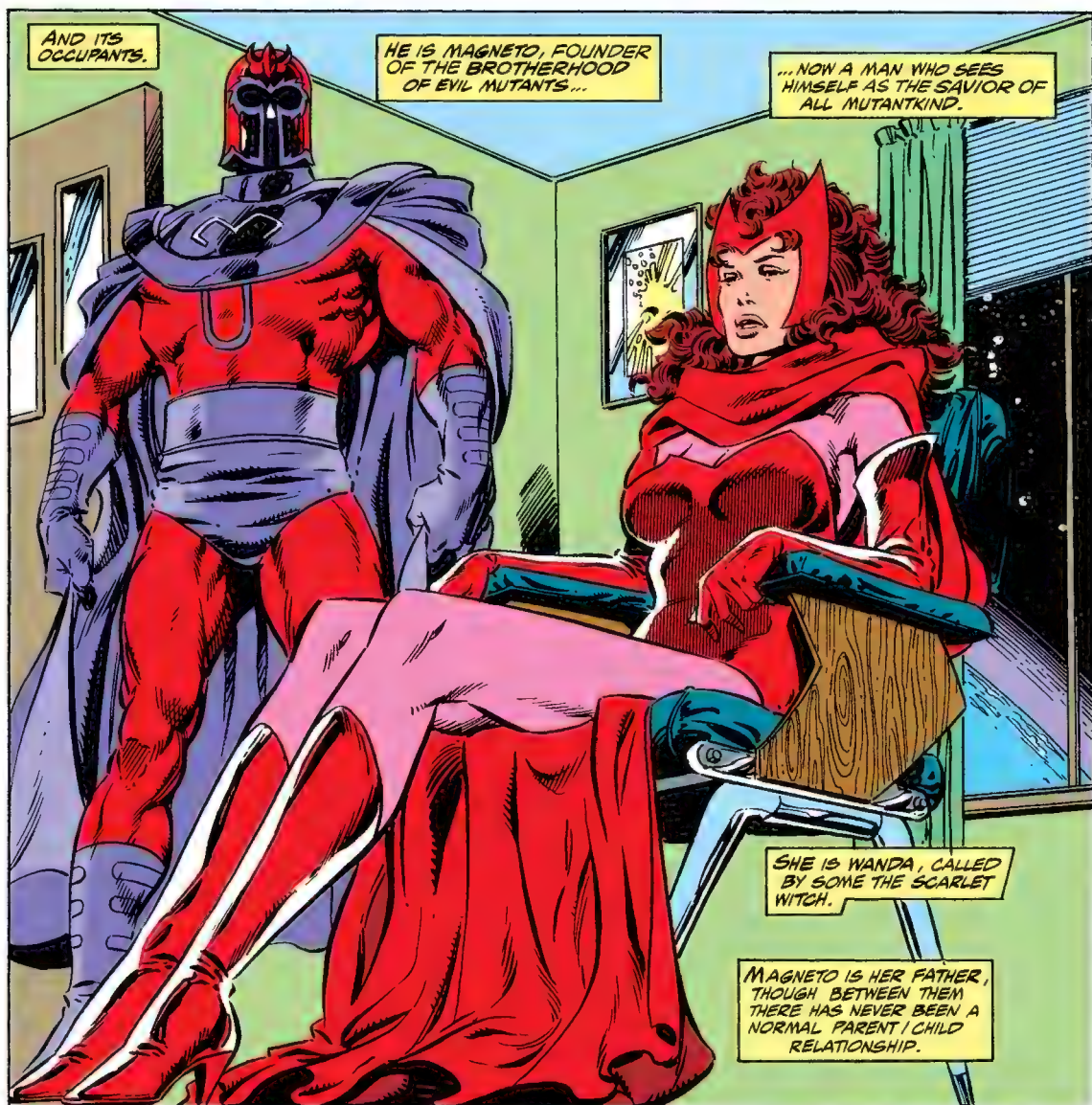
...OUT AT THE VERY EDGE  
OF EARTH'S SLENDER  
FILM OF ATMOSPHERE,  
WHERE THE ENDLESS  
NIGHT BEGINS AND MOTHER  
NATURE HAS ALLOWED  
NO PLACE FOR LIFE...

... A HOUSE.

A NORMAL, ORDINARY HOUSE  
IN ALL RESPECTS SAVE  
TWO: ITS LOCATION...







AND ITS  
OCCUPANTS.

HE IS MAGNETO, FOUNDER  
OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF EVIL MUTANTS...

...NOW A MAN WHO SEES  
HIMSELF AS THE SAVIOR OF  
ALL MUTANTKIND.

SHE IS WANDA, CALLED  
BY SOME THE SCARLET  
WITCH.

MAGNETO IS HER FATHER,  
THOUGH BETWEEN THEM  
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A  
NORMAL PARENT / CHILD  
RELATIONSHIP.

HARKEN NOW TO THE  
THOUGHTS WHICH  
BURN WITHIN ONE OF  
THE MOST POWERFUL  
MUTANT BRAINS  
ON EARTH ...

SHE IS STILL ALMOST  
COMATOSE; UNRE-  
SPONSIVE; HER MIND  
CLOSED DOWN  
AGAINST THE TRAG-  
EDIES WHICH HAVE  
LATELY BESET  
HER.

EVEN MY USE OF MY  
MAGNETIC POWERS TO  
TEAR THIS HOUSE FROM  
ITS FOUNDATIONS AND  
HURL IT TO THE BRINK  
OF SPACE HAS NOT  
PENETRATED THE  
FOG ABOUT HER  
MIND.

CLEARLY THE  
TIME HAS COME  
FOR A MORE  
DIRECT  
APPROACH.



WANDA...



AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY, IN THE HI-TECH CATACOMBS OF AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS, EAST COAST...

...THE GOD OF THUNDER SPEAKS A SINGLE NAME...

**LOKI!**



EACH IN HIS PLACE AROUND THE GREAT CONFERENCE CHAMBER, GATHERED AVENGERS REACT TO THOR'S NEWS.

FIRST TO FIND VOICE IS THE STAR-SPANGLED CHAMPION KNOWN AS CAPTAIN AMERICA!

YOU'RE SURE OF THIS, ASGARDIAN?

LOKI IS THE ONE BEHIND THE RECENT ATTACKS ON SUPER HEROES EVERYWHERE?



AYE AND AYE AGAIN, AVENGER!

I KNOW NOT HOW MY EVIL HALF BROTHER HATH COERCED THESE VILLAINS INTO CARRYING OUT HIS WILL, BUT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT--LOKI IS AT THE BLACK HEART OF THIS!



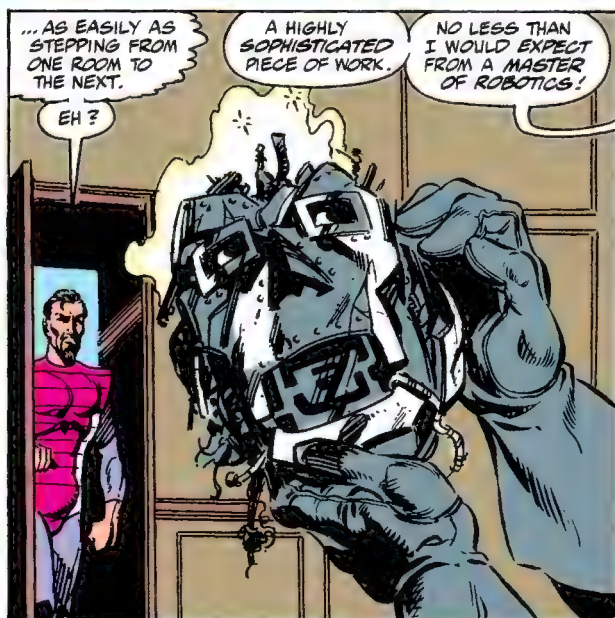
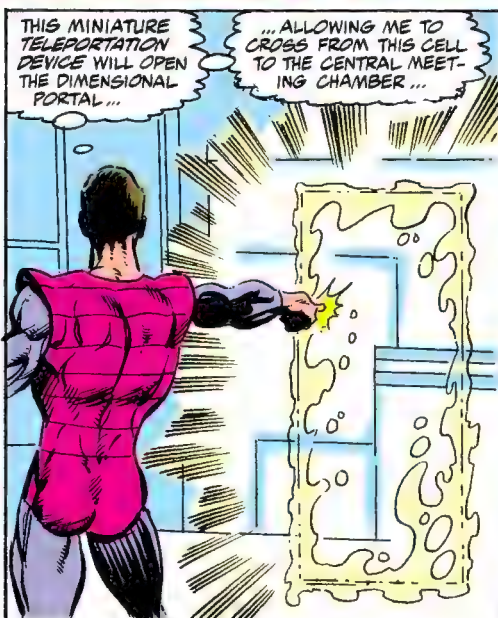
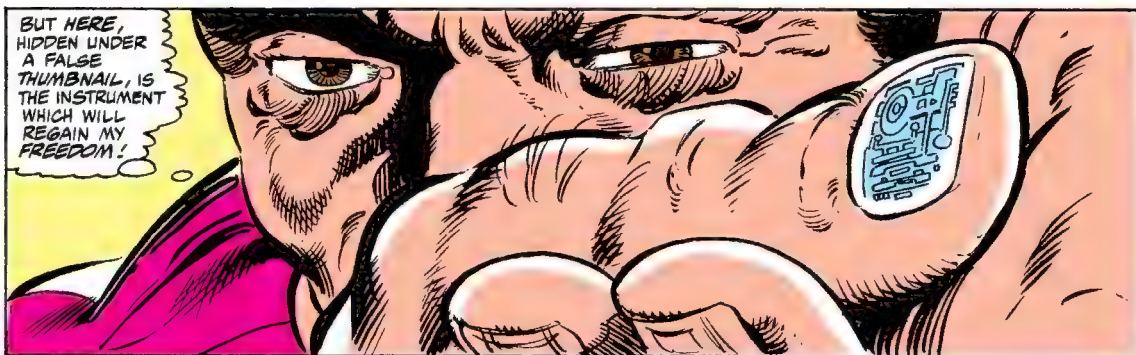
BUT... CLOAK AND DAGGER TOLD ME IT WAS DOCTOR DOOM... \*

AND THE CAPTURED WIZARD INFORMED US THAT A CONVOGATION OF VILLAINS WAS BEHIND THE RECENT UNREST.

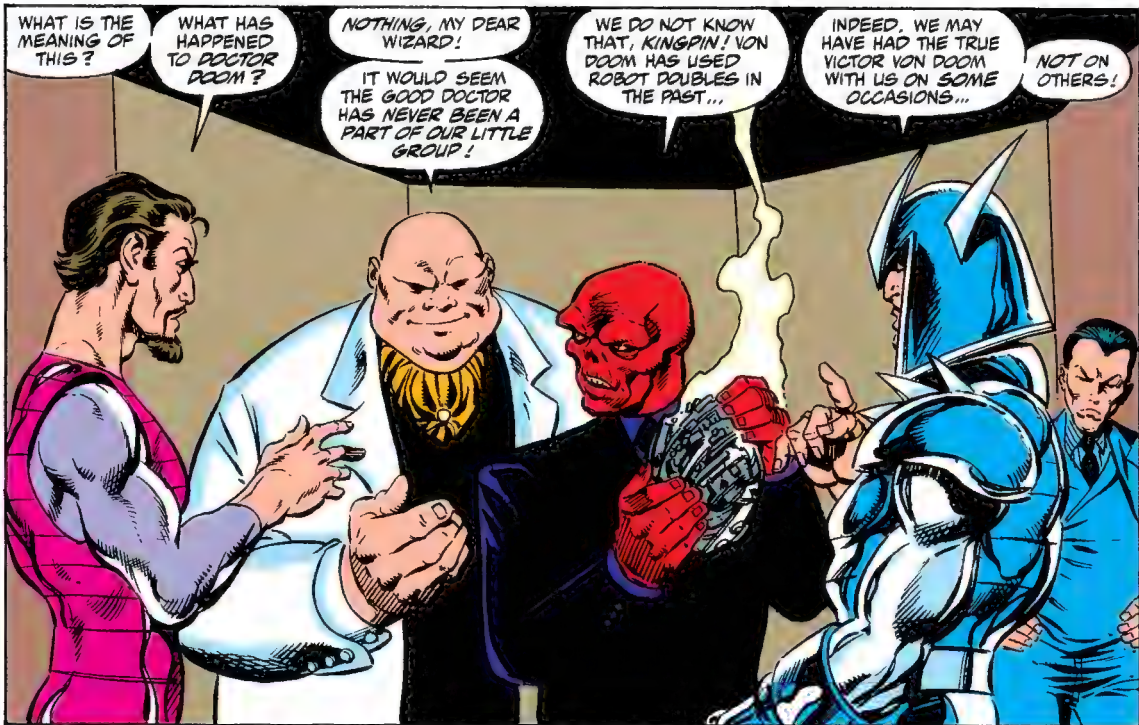


\* IN CLOAK AND DAGGER #9 -- HOWARD.









WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO DOCTOR DOOM?

NOTHING, MY DEAR WIZARD!

IT WOULD SEEM THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS NEVER BEEN A PART OF OUR LITTLE GROUP!

WE DO NOT KNOW THAT, KINGPIN! VON DOOM HAS USED ROBOT DOUBLES IN THE PAST...

INDEED. WE MAY HAVE HAD THE TRUE VICTOR VON DOOM WITH US ON SOME OCCASIONS...

NOT ON OTHERS!



MANDARIN!

I AM SHOCKED TO SEE YOU BACK HERE, AFTER YOU SO GRAVELY ABANDONED ME TO THE AVENGERS! \*

DO NOT BLAME ME FOR YOUR OWN SHORTCOMINGS, WIZARD.

WHEN THE TIDE OF BATTLE TURNED AGAINST US, I WITHDREW. YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.

\*AVENGERS # 3/3 -- H.M.



AS I DID-- BUT NOT BEFORE I WAS SUBJECTED TO SEVERE INTERROGATION AT THE HANDS OF OUR FOES.

NATURALLY, I TOLD THEM NOTHING, BUT HAD I NOT USED THE TELEPORTATION DEVICE TO ESCAPE MY CELL...

WHAT??



IGNORANT MORTAL!

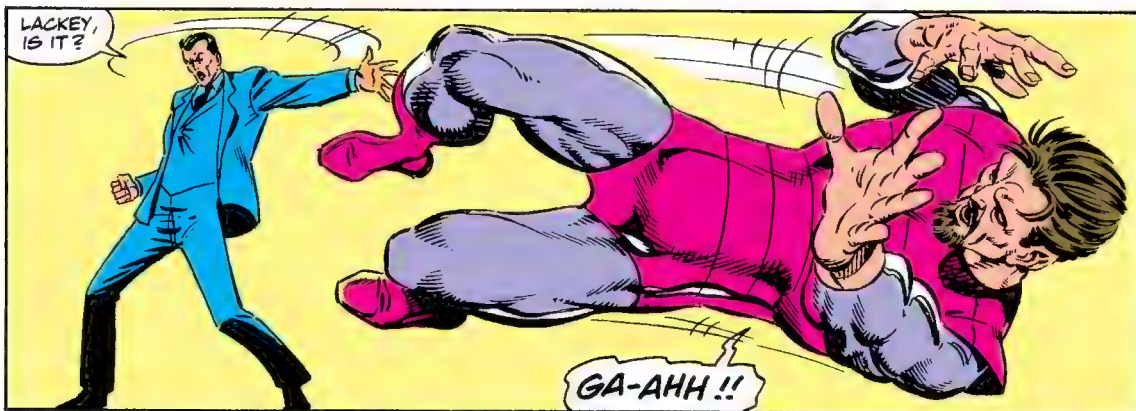
SAY THOU HAST NOT DONE THIS THING !!

?!?

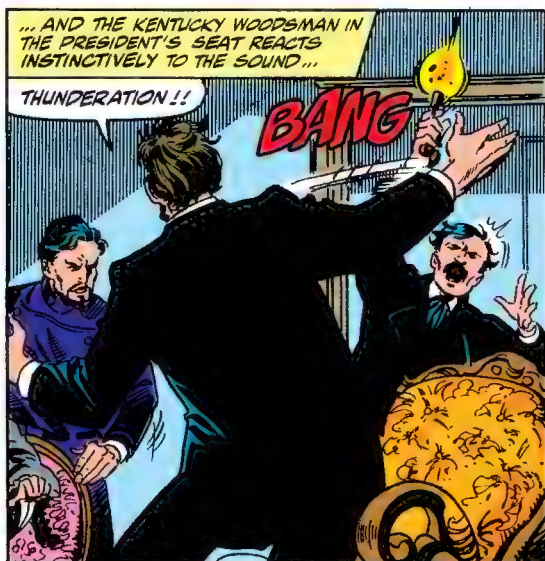
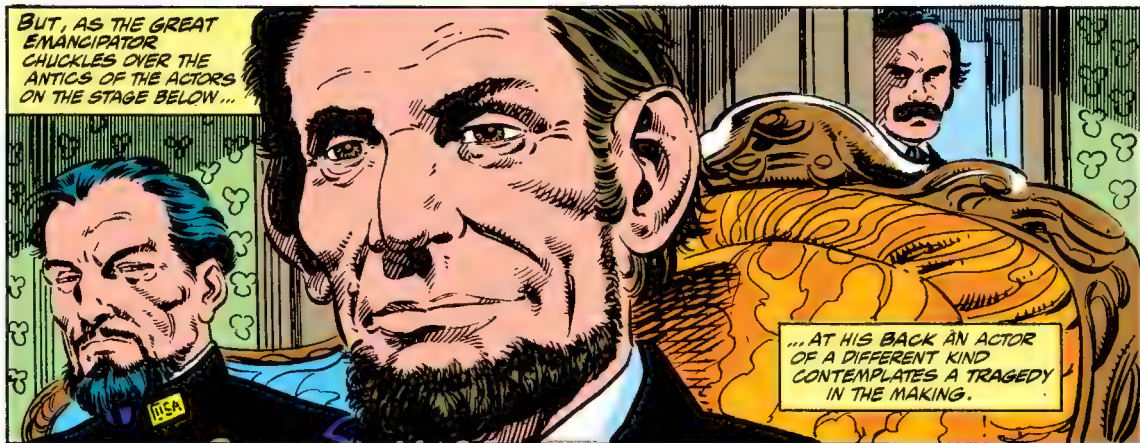
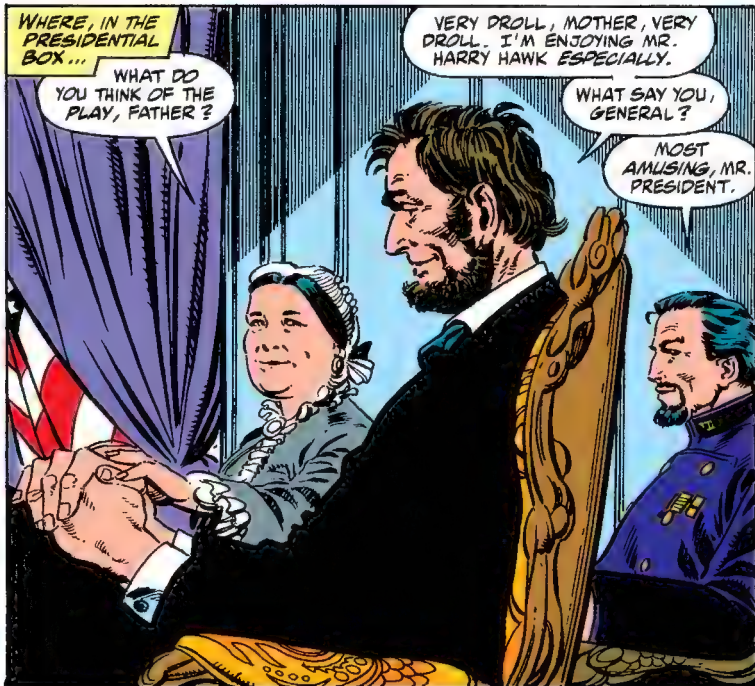
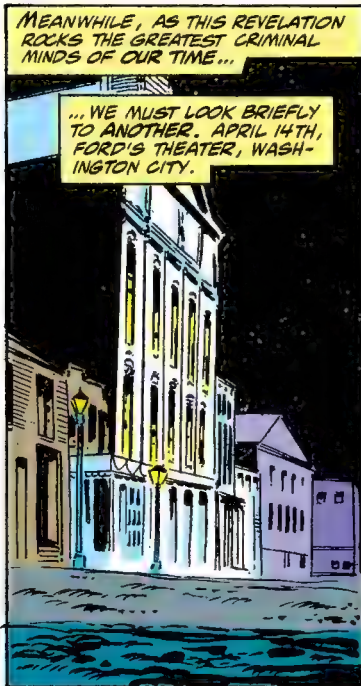
UNHAND ME, LACKEY!

HOW DARE YOU RAISE HAND OR VOICE TO YOUR BETTER?!

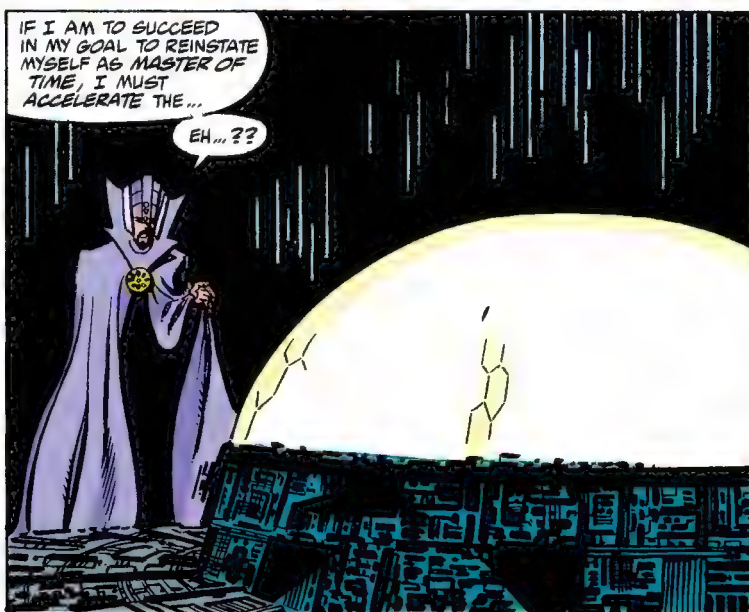
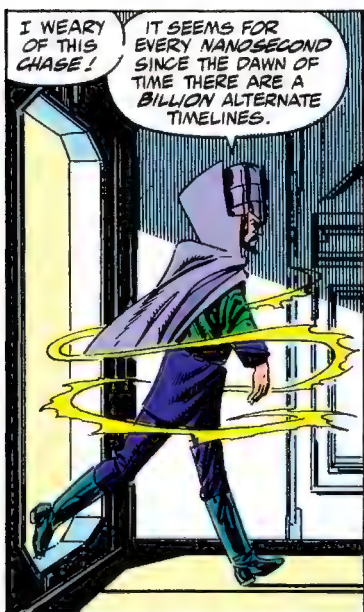
















THE SCARLET WITCH IS NO LONGER CENTERED WITHIN MY TRANS-TEMPORAL SCANNER!

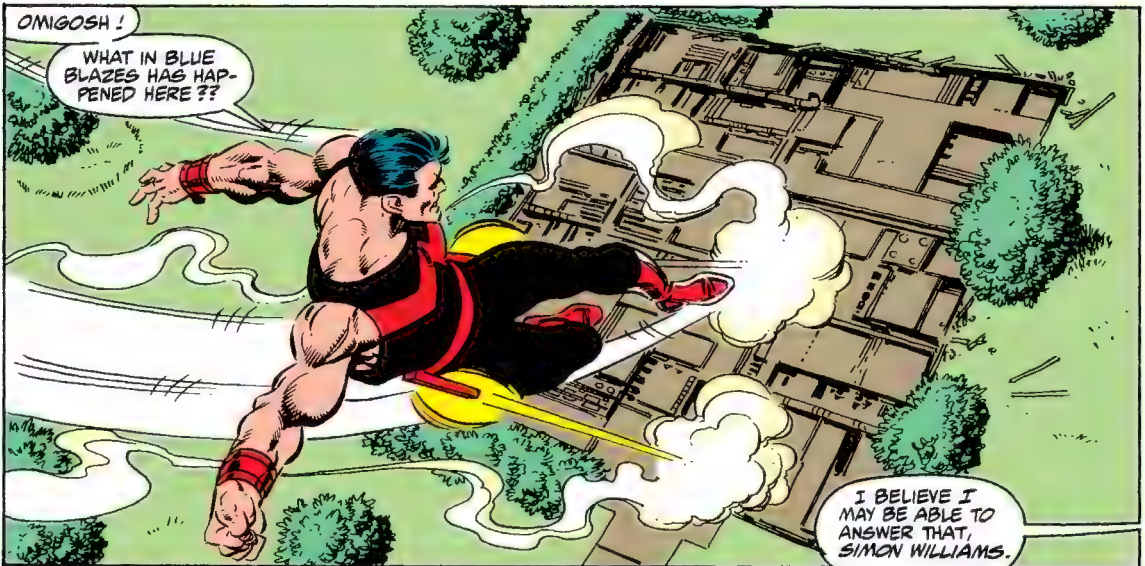
ONLY A MASSIVE DISRUPTION OF THE EARTH'S ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD COULD HAVE DISPLACED THE FOCUS!



I MUST RELOCATE THE WITCH AT ONCE, OR ALL MY YEARS OF SCHEMING MAY BE FORFEIT!

BUT, WAIT! THE HERO KNOWN AS WONDER MAN ENTERS THE SCAN FIELD. IS IT POSSIBLE THE SCANNER HAS NOT DRIFTED... BUT SOMEHOW WANDA HAS BEEN RELOCATED WITHOUT THE SCANNER COMPENSATING?

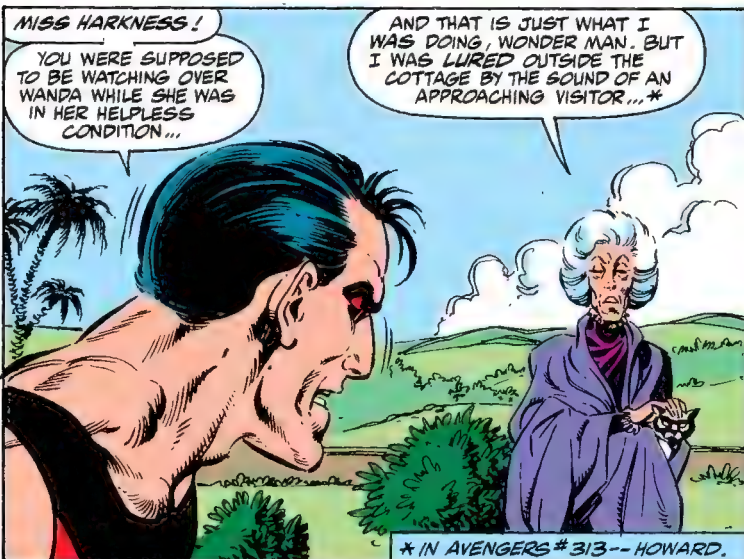
WANDA!



OMIGOSH!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES HAS HAPPENED HERE??

I BELIEVE I MAY BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT, SIMON WILLIAMS.



MISS HARKNESS!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING OVER WANDA WHILE SHE WAS IN HER HELPLESS CONDITION...

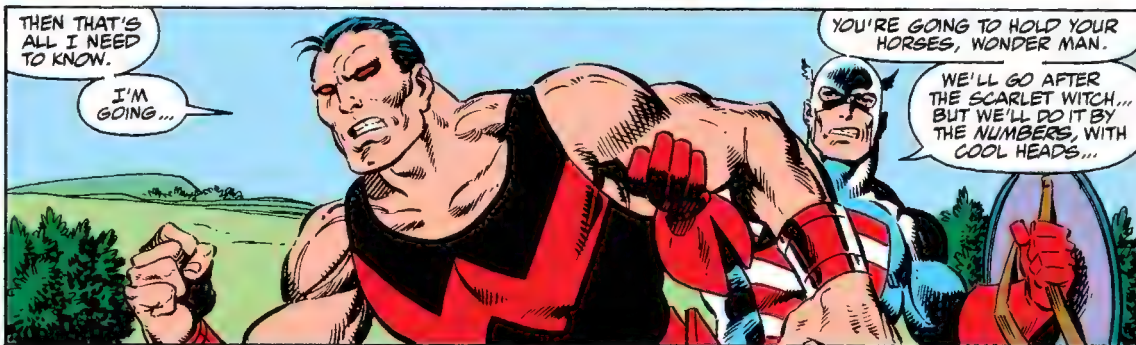
AND THAT IS JUST WHAT I WAS DOING, WONDER MAN. BUT I WAS LURED OUTSIDE THE COTTAGE BY THE SOUND OF AN APPROACHING VISITOR...\*



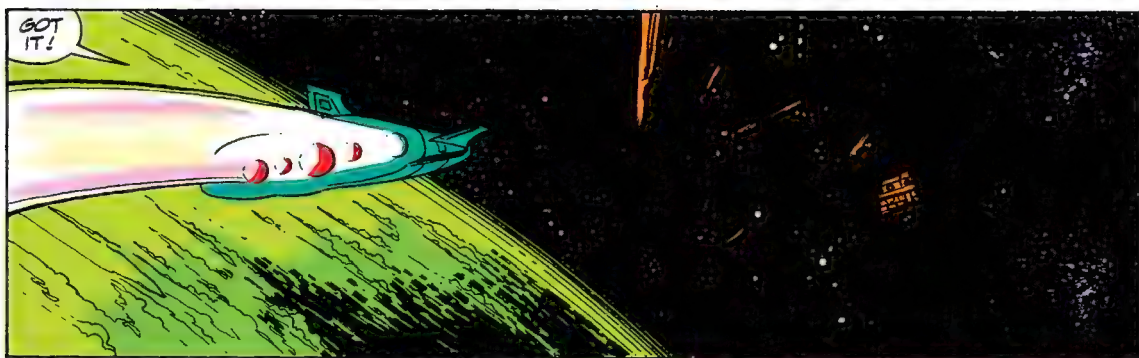
...AND THE MOMENT I STEPPED OFF THE PORCH, THE HOUSE WAS TORN FROM ITS BASE AND HURLED SKYWARD FASTER THAN I COULD SHAPE A SPELL TO STOP IT!

\* IN AVENGERS #313--HOWARD.

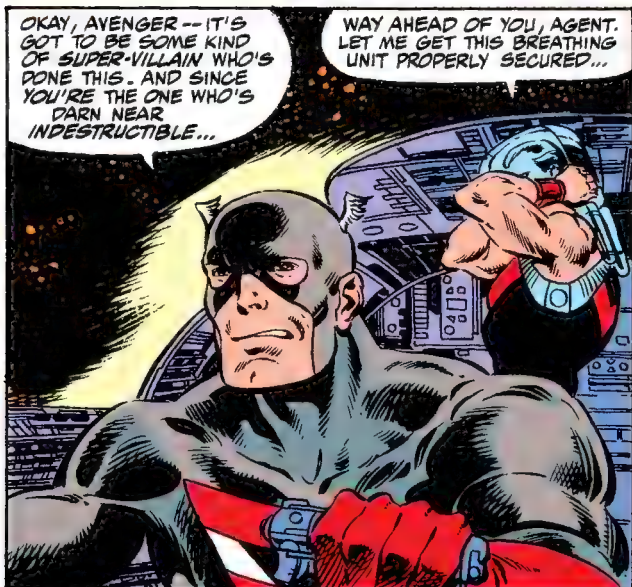








GOT IT!



OKAY, AVENGER -- IT'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF SUPER-VILLAIN WHO'S DONE THIS. AND SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DARN NEAR INDESTRUCTIBLE...

WAY AHEAD OF YOU, AGENT. LET ME GET THIS BREATHING UNIT PROPERLY SECURED...



...AND I'LL HEAD ON OVER TO THE HOUSE AND HAVE A LOOK.



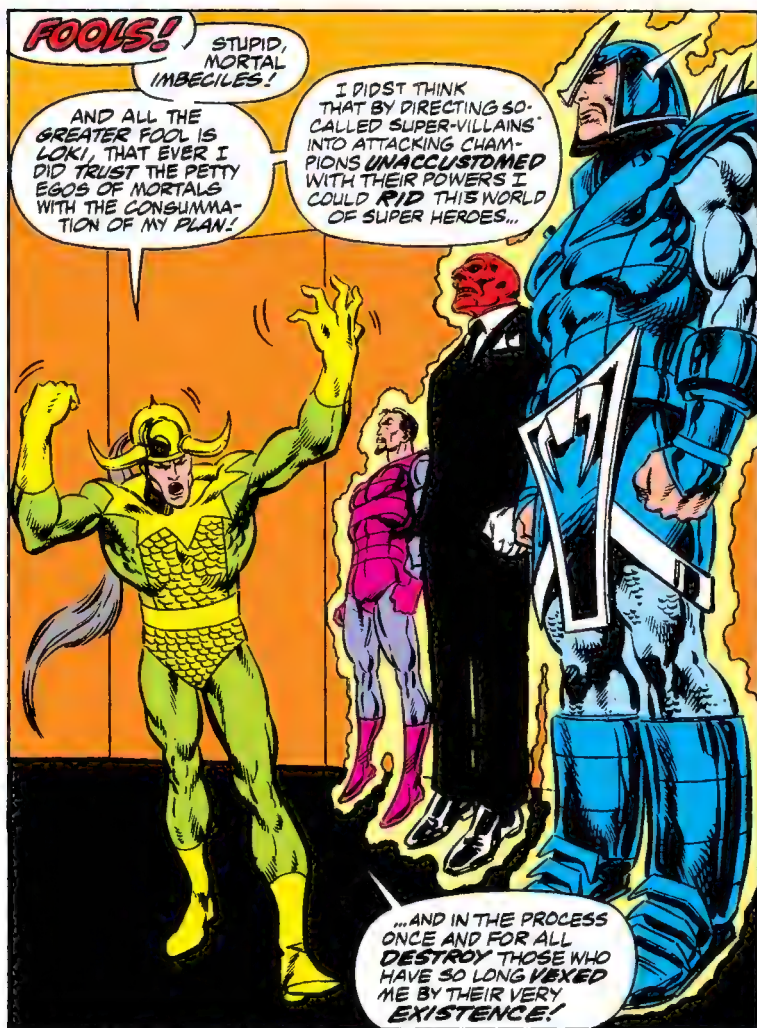
IT ALL LOOKS PRETTY PEACEFUL SO FAR, APART FROM THE LOCATION.

IS WANDA ALL RIGHT? THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE ALL CLOSED AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, BUT I DON'T THINK THIS PLACE WAS EVER BUILT TO BE SPACE-WORTHY.

JUST ON THE OFF CHANCE IT'S STILL AIR-TIGHT I'D BETTER LOOK IN A WINDOW BEFORE I TRY THE ...



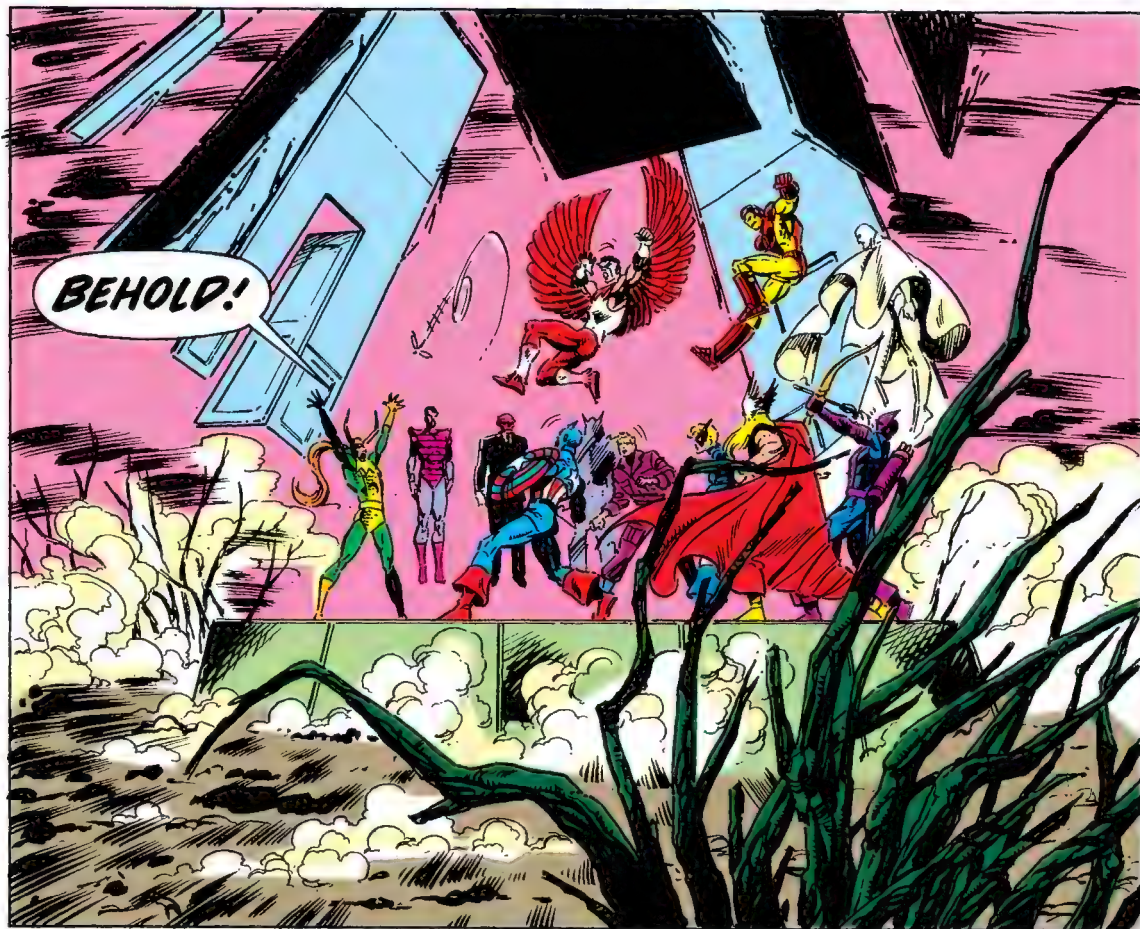




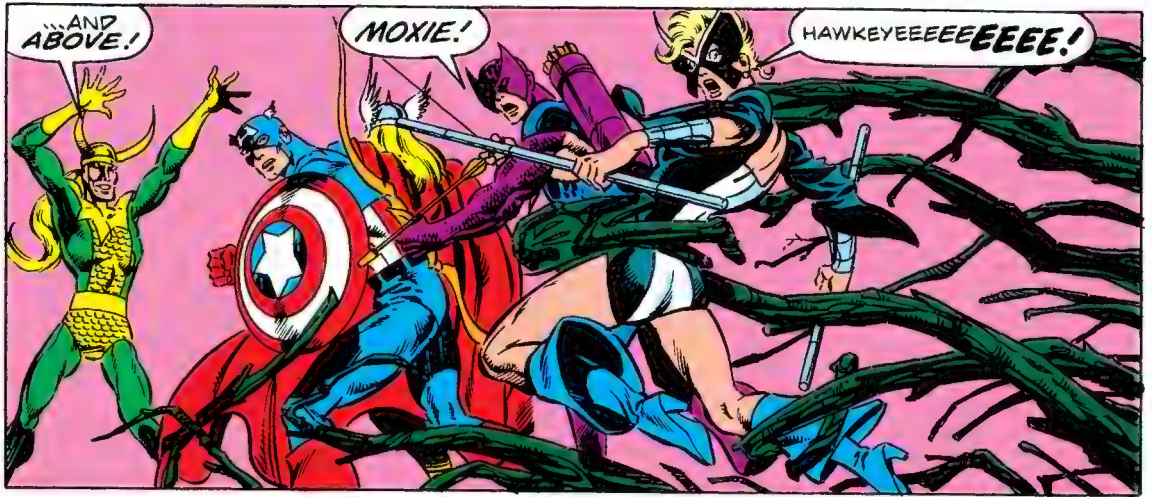
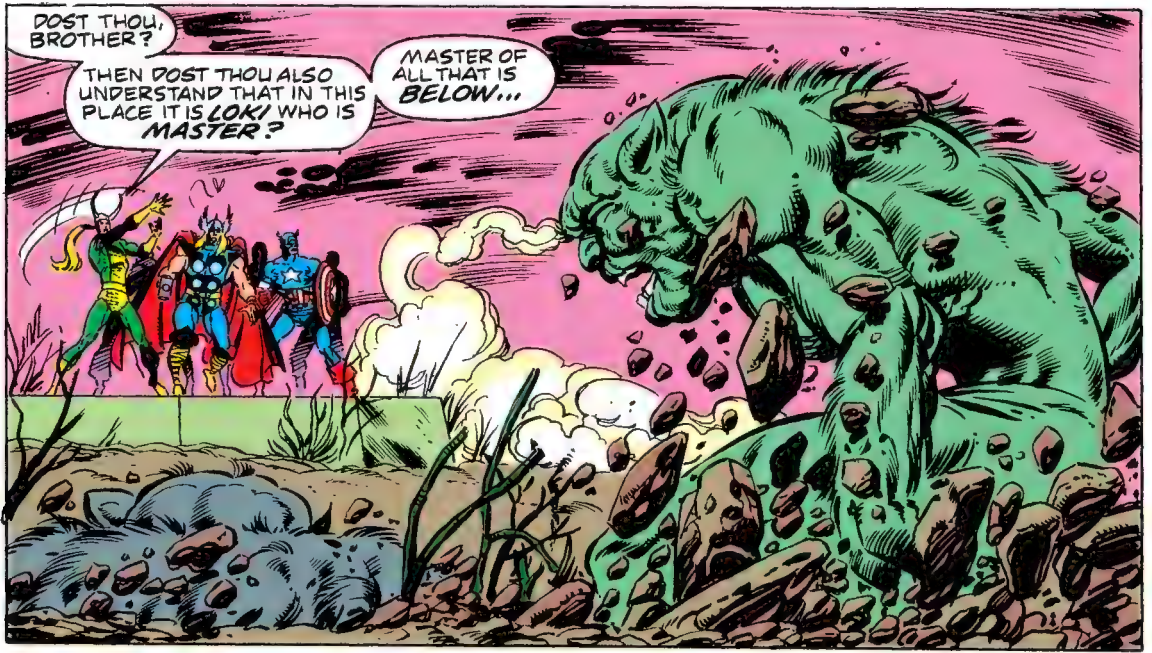












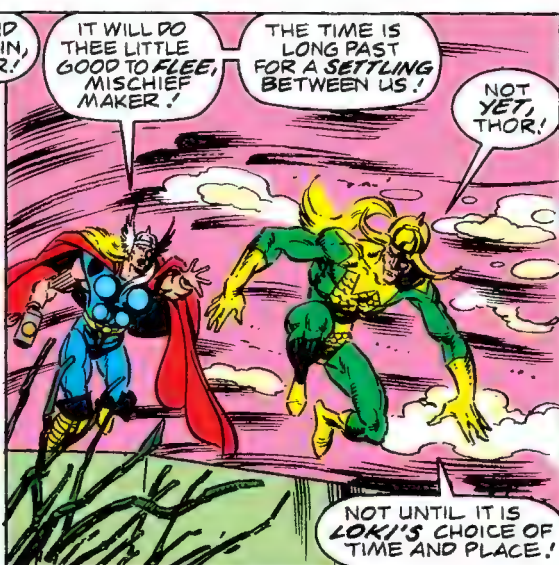




**THOR!**  
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A CHANCE OF STOPPING LOKI!

YOU'VE GOT TO CONFRONT HIM HEAD ON!

AYE, AND AYE AGAIN, AVENGER!



IT WILL DO THEE LITTLE GOOD TO FLEE, MISCHIEF MAKER!

THE TIME IS LONG PAST FOR A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN US!

NOT YET, THOR!

NOT UNTIL IT IS LOKI'S CHOICE OF TIME AND PLACE!



AND LOKI FIGHTS ONLY WHEN THE ODDS ARE IN HIS FAVOR!

A WALL OF ICE!

THOU PLAYEST FAMILIAR GAMES, SIBLING!



WHAT...??

WE CAN MOVE AGAIN!

LOKI'S ENCHANTMENT!

WITH HIS ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE AVENGERS, WE ARE FREE OF IT!



YES! FREE TO STRIKE AGAINST OUR FOES WHILE...

NO! DO NOT BE A FOOL, SKULL!

WE HAVE BEEN DUPED! THIS PLAN WAS EVER LOKI'S! THE FAILURE IS ALSO HIS!



WE MUST WITHDRAW, TO MAKE OUR OWN PLANS...

EACH IN HIS OWN WAY!

YOU ARE RIGHT, MANDARIN!

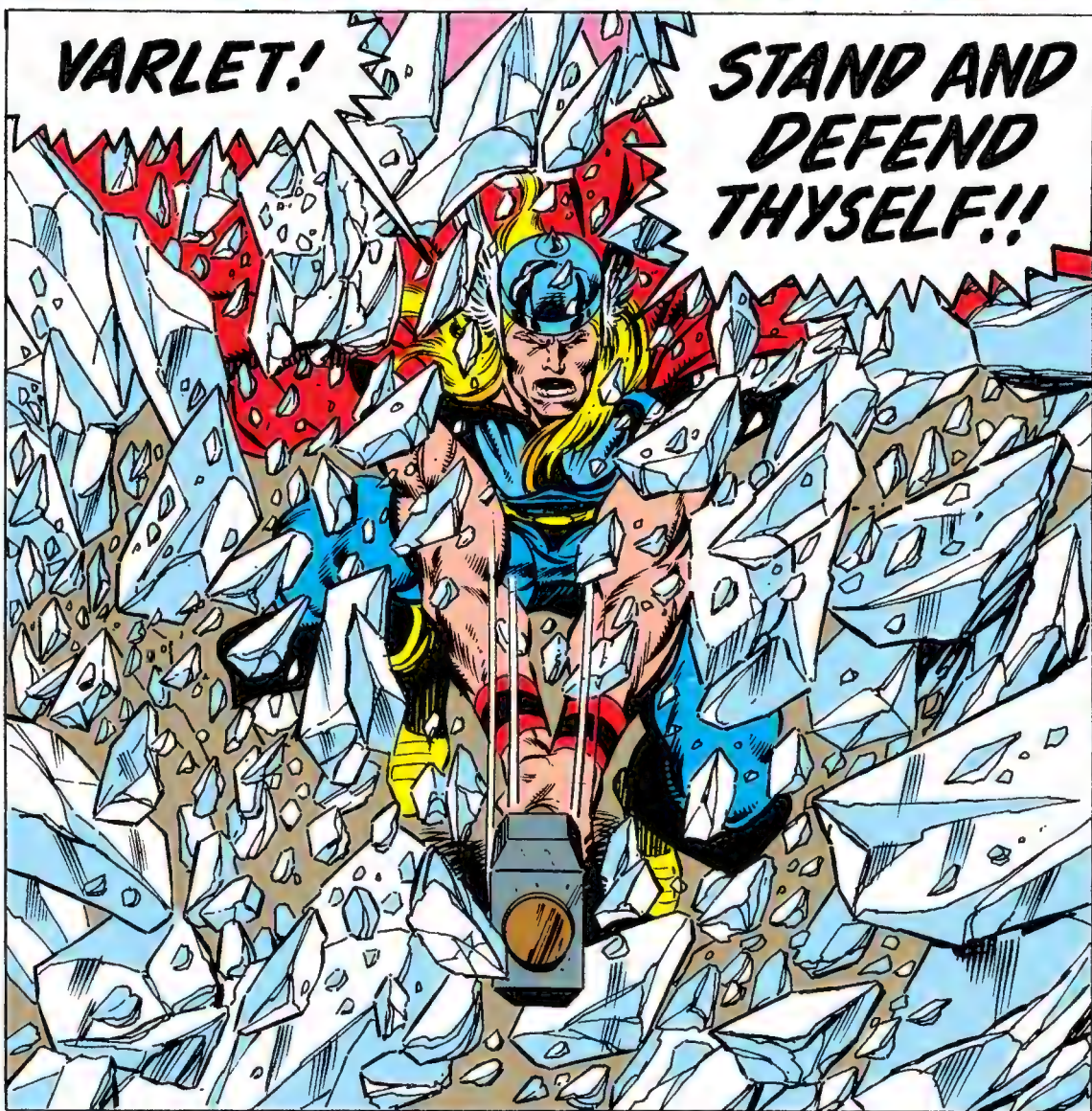
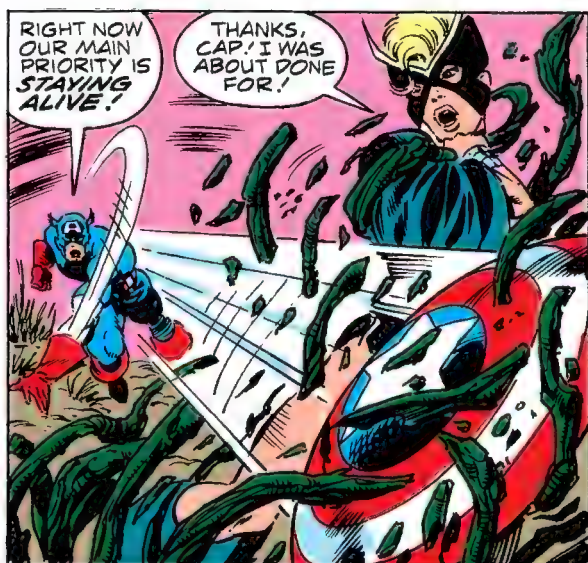
ALTHOUGH LOKI KNOCKED DOWN THE WALLS...



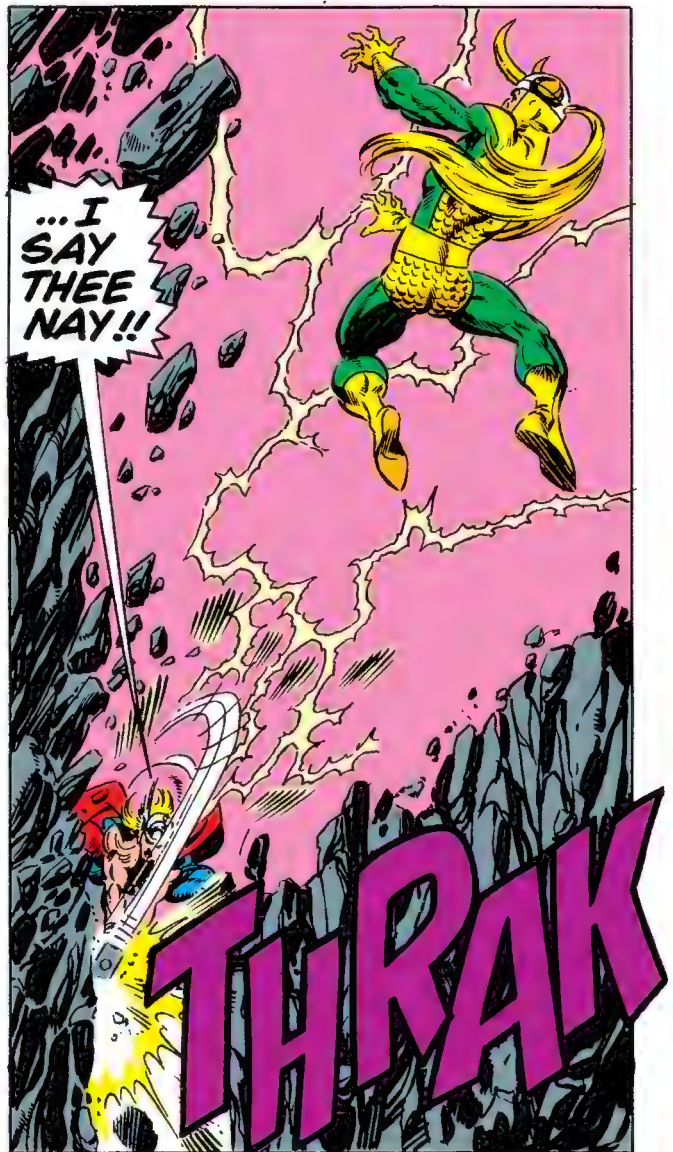
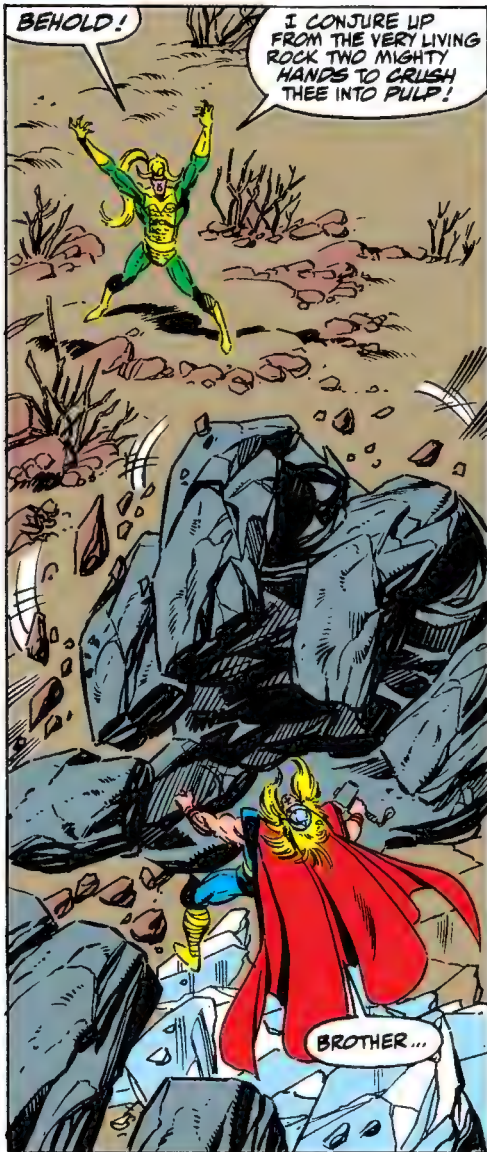
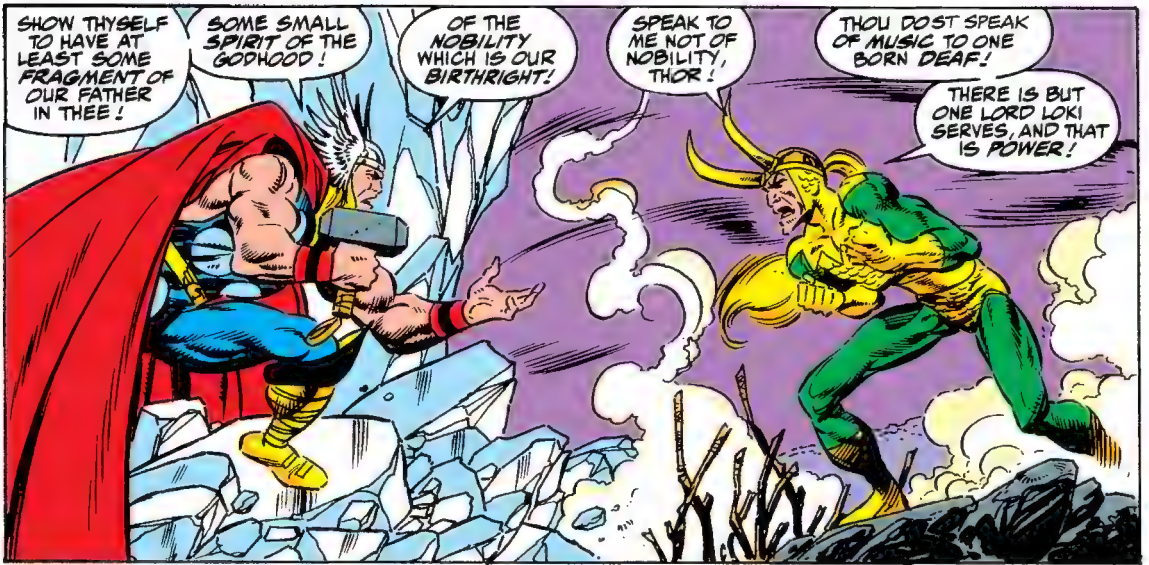
...THE DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE IN EACH DOOR IS STILL ACTIVE!

WE CAN RETURN TO EARTH WHILE THE AVENGERS ARE OCCUPIED!

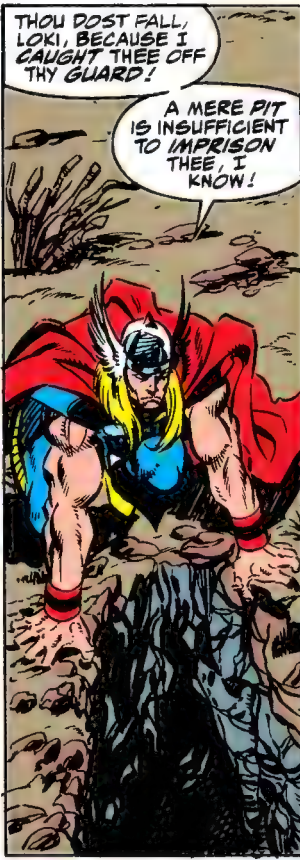






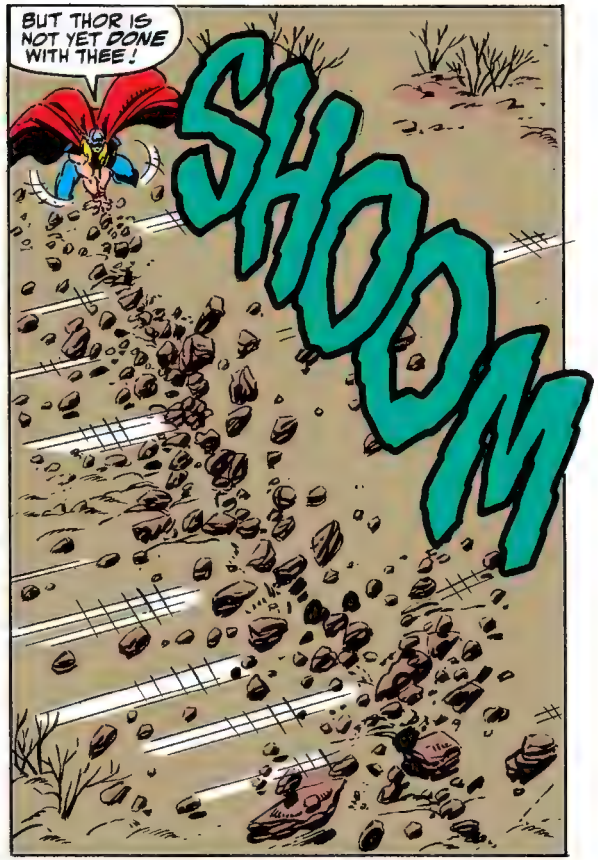




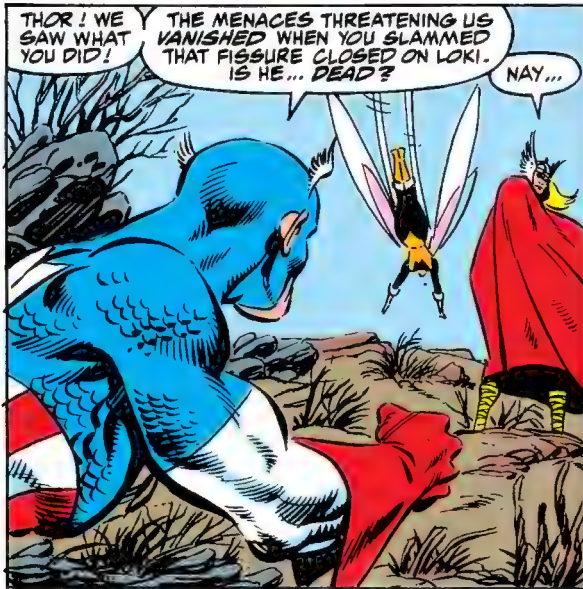


THOU DOST FALL, LOKI, BECAUSE I CAUGHT THEE OFF THY GUARD!

A MERE PIT IS INSUFFICIENT TO IMPRISON THEE, I KNOW!



BUT THOR IS NOT YET DONE WITH THEE!



THOR! WE SAW WHAT YOU DID!

THE MENACES THREATENING US VANISHED WHEN YOU SLAMMED THAT FISSURE CLOSED ON LOKI. IS HE... DEAD?

NAY...



IMPRISONED HE MAY BE, UNDER A MILLION TONS OF EARTH...

BUT GODS DO NOT PERISH THUS. NOT EVEN UNWORTHY GODS SUCH AS MY BROTHER.

NOT FOR HIM, THEN THE FATE HE MEANT FOR ALL OF US.

FOR WHEN I SAW THIS MODELED IN THE LIKENESS OF MY BROTHER'S ONETIME ABODE, I KNEW WHAT IT WAS THAT DROVE HIM IN HIS MADNESS.

BY BANDING TOGETHER A GROUP OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST VILLAINS, HE THOUGHT HE COULD UNDO US. INSTEAD HE HATH SUCCEEDED ONLY IN STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLVE!

T'WAS LOKI'S ACTIONS, LO THESE MANY YEARS AGO, WHICH FIRST DID BRING TOGETHER THOSE OF US WHO FUSED INTO THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS.\* LONG HATH THIS FESTERED IN MY BROTHER'S CRAW.

LET THE EVIL MINDS OF THE WORLD BEWARE! EVER AND ALWAYS SHALL THE AVENGERS PREVAIL!

\*WAY, WAY, WAY BACK IN AVENGERS #1-H.M.



THREE HOURS LATER, OVER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ...

SO LONG,  
IRON MAN!

SEE YOU  
SOON!

NOT TOO SOON  
I HOPE, DOCTOR  
PYM!

I THINK  
WE COULD  
ALL USE A  
REST!

SO... THAT'S THAT!  
ANOTHER THREAT ENDED,  
AND THIS TIME IT ALL  
STARTED BECAUSE LOKI  
GOT TIRED OF THE OTHER  
VILLAINS POKING FUN  
AT HIM AT THE ANNUAL  
BAD GUYS' PICNIC!

CHUCKLE: WELL,  
SOMETHING LIKE THAT  
ANYWAY, JANET.

IT'S ALWAYS **GALLED**  
THAT IT WAS SOMETHING  
**HE DID** THAT CAUSED THE  
AVENGERS TO GET TO-  
GETHER IN THE FIRST  
PLACE. MAYBE THIS WILL  
HAVE TAUGHT HIM WE'RE  
A TEAM THAT WAS  
**MEANT** TO BE. EAST  
COAST OR WEST, IT WAS  
MORE THAN LOKI THAT  
BROUGHT US TOGETHER...  
AND IT'LL TAKE MORE  
THAN HIM TO **BREAK** US!

WELL, WHATEVER THE  
CAUSE, I'M GLAD IT'S  
OVER... FOR NOW AT  
LEAST.

I GUESS IT WOULD  
BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE  
THIS HAS PUT THE  
KIBOSH ON THE BAD  
GUYS ONCE AND FOR  
ALL...

I WOULDN'T  
THINK SO, JAN,  
NO. HOLOGRAM  
OFF... HANGAR  
DOORS OPEN...

MM... WONDER IF THIS  
MEANS WE'LL NEED  
TO BE ON THE LOOK-  
OUT FOR HIM IN  
THE FUTURE?

COULD BE.

ANYWAY... I'M  
GOING TO CHECK  
ON TIGRA NOW.  
CARE TO TAG  
ALONG?

I'LL MEET YOU AT  
THE BIO-LAB IN A  
BIT, MON.

I WANT TO CLEAN  
UP AND GET INTO A  
FRESH COSTUME.

PLUS I WANT TO  
LOOK IN ON WANDA  
AND MISS HARKNESS,  
SEE HOW WANDA'S  
COMING ALONG.

OKAY.  
SEE YOU  
IN A FEW...

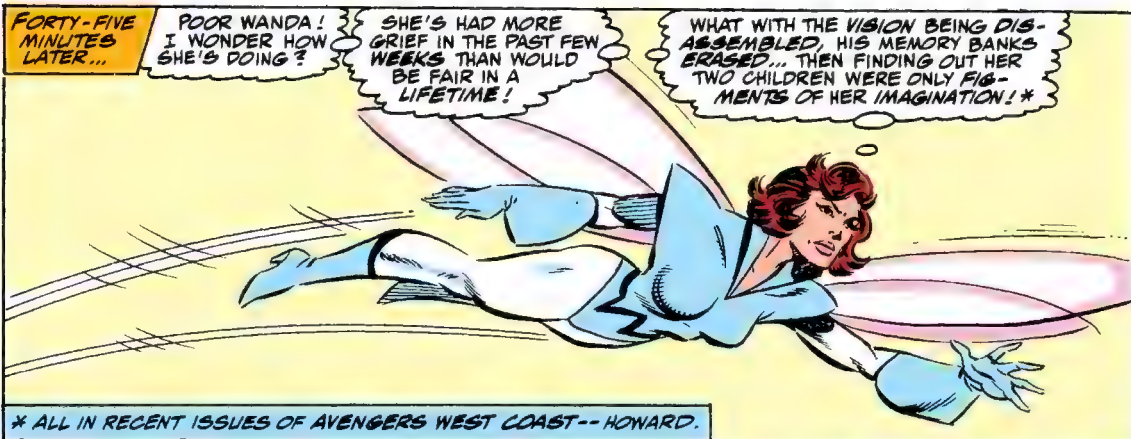


**FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER...**

POOR WANDA! I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING?

SHE'S HAD MORE GRIEF IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAN WOULD BE FAIR IN A LIFETIME!

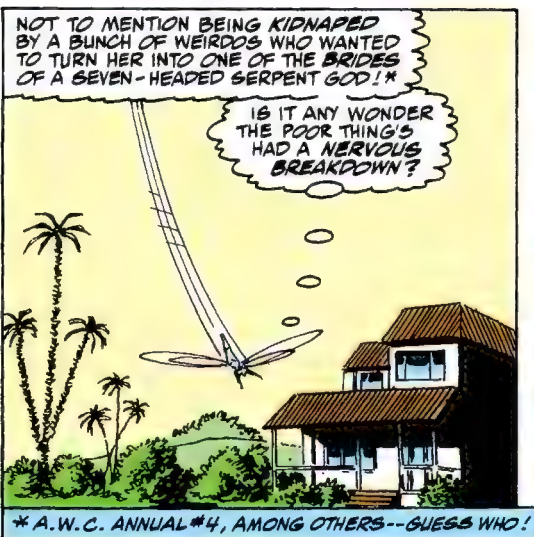
WHAT WITH THE VISION BEING DIS-ASSEMBLED, HIS MEMORY BANKS ERASED... THEN FINDING OUT HER TWO CHILDREN WERE ONLY FIG-MENTS OF HER IMAGINATION! \*



\* ALL IN RECENT ISSUES OF AVENGERS WEST COAST--HOWARD.

NOT TO MENTION BEING KIDNAPED BY A BUNCH OF WEIRDOS WHO WANTED TO TURN HER INTO ONE OF THE BRIDES OF A SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT GOD! \*

IS IT ANY WONDER THE POOR THING'S HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN?



\* A.W.C. ANNUAL #4, AMONG OTHERS--GUESS WHO!

WANDA?

MISS HARKNESS?

ARE YOU--

**WASP!**



**U.S. AGENT!**

WHAT IN THE...??

WASP... NO... DON'T GET BIG...

GET AWAY!

FAST!

WHILE YOU CAN!!



GET AWAY?

FROM WHAT...? WHO...?

DEAD! BLOWN TO BITS OUT IN SPACE!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE'S WANDA? WHERE'S WONDER MAN?

GET AWAY...

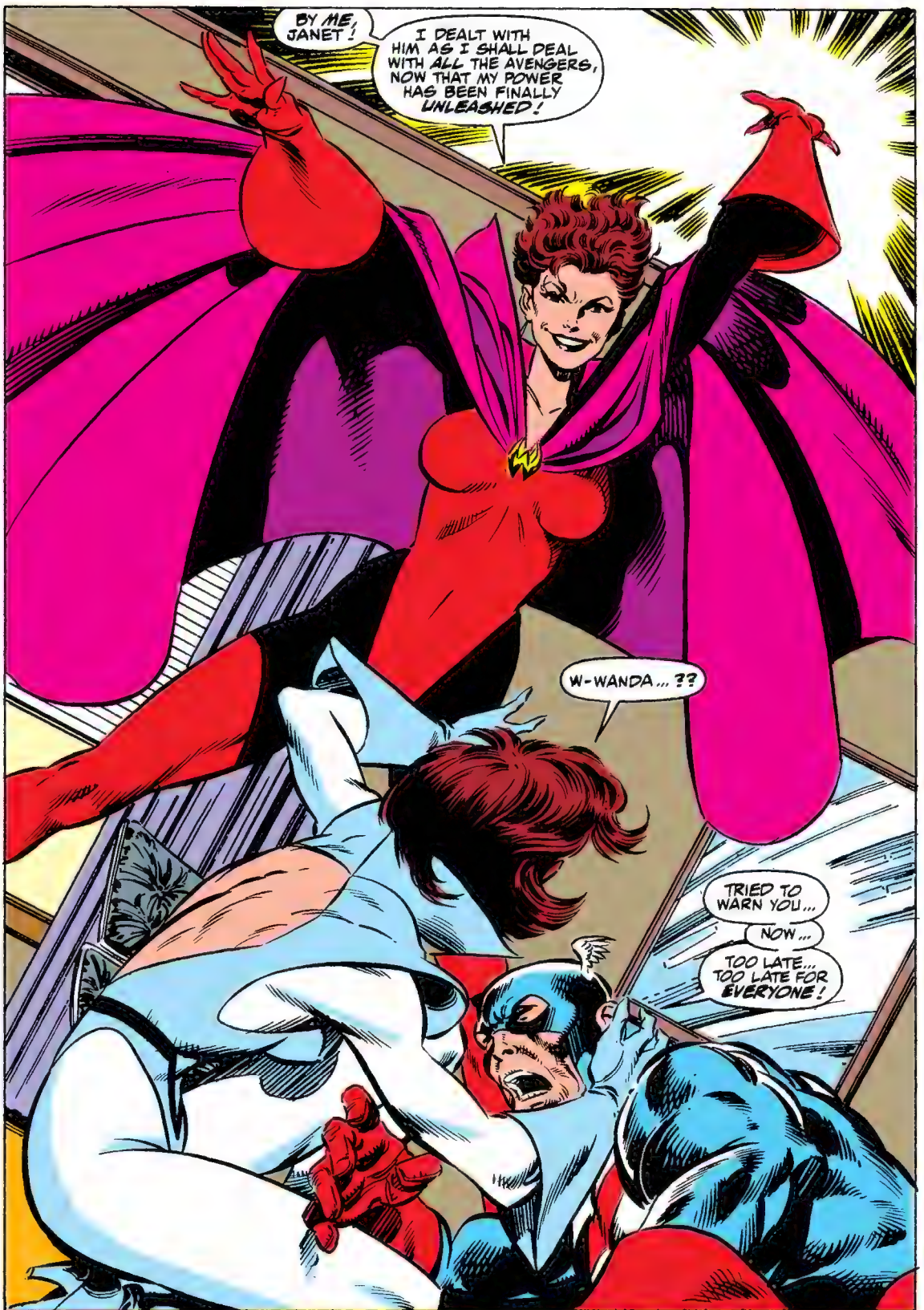
GET AWAY...

WONDER MAN... KILLED??

BUT... BY WHO??







**NEXT ISSUE: DARKER THAN SCARLET!**



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# AVENGERS<sup>®</sup>

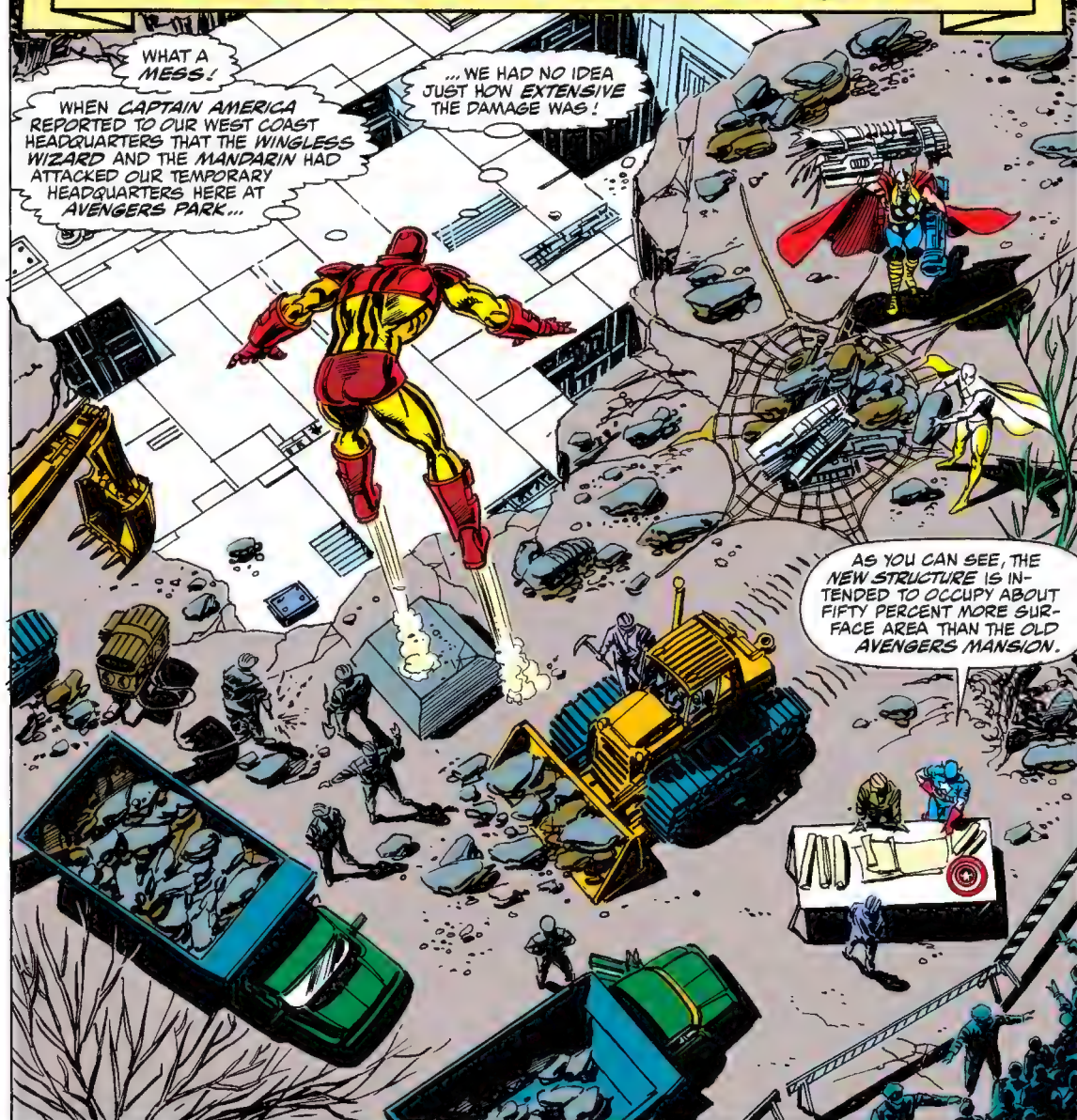
GUEST-STARRING  
*the* AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN!



INTO THE VOID!<sup>TM</sup>



# "ALONG CAME A SPIDER..."



PAUL RYAN & TOM PALMER / JOHN BYRNE / BILL OAKLEY ~ letterer / HOWARD MACKIE / TOM DEFALCO  
ARTISTS / WRITER / CHRISTIE SCHEELE ~ colorist / EDITOR / EDITOR IN CHIEF





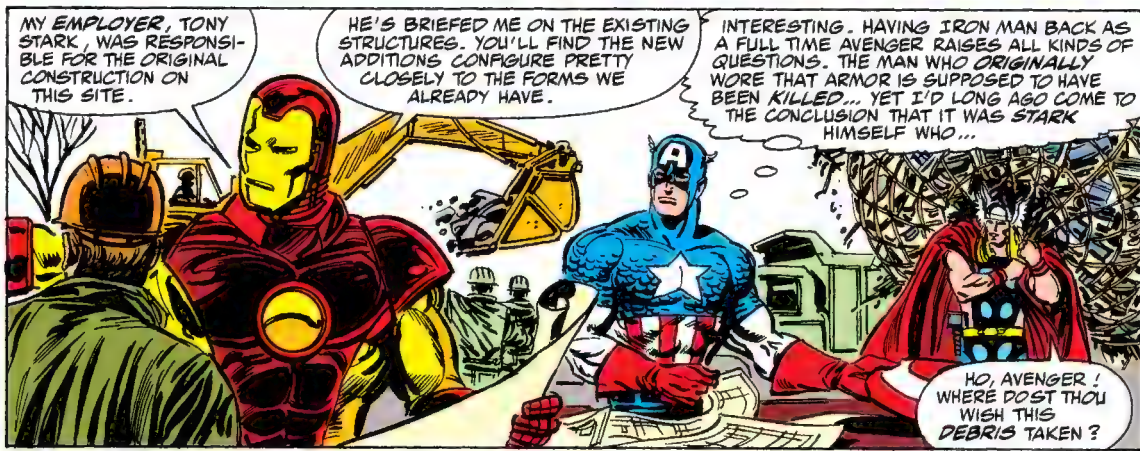
YEAH... WITH MOST OF THE NEW CONSTRUCTION GOING ON UNDERGROUND. THAT'S GONNA REQUIRE BLASTING PERMITS, CAP.

NOT NECESSARILY. ANYTHING I CAN ASSIST WITH, CAP-TAIN AMERICA?



AH, IRON MAN. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO EXPLAIN TO MR. WITHERS HERE THAT WE WON'T NEED TO DO MUCH IN THE WAY OF BLASTING TO CONSTRUCT THE SUB-STRUCTURE OF OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS.

QUITE RIGHT.



MY EMPLOYER, TONY STARK, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION ON THIS SITE.

HE'S BRIEFED ME ON THE EXISTING STRUCTURES. YOU'LL FIND THE NEW ADDITIONS CONFIGURE PRETTY CLOSELY TO THE FORMS WE ALREADY HAVE.

INTERESTING. HAVING IRON MAN BACK AS A FULL TIME AVENGER RAISES ALL KINDS OF QUESTIONS. THE MAN WHO ORIGINALLY WORE THAT ARMOR IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED... YET I'D LONG AGO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS STARK HIMSELF WHO...

HO, AVENGER! WHERE DOST THOU WISH THIS DEBRIS TAKEN?



AH, THOR, YOU'VE GOT THE FIRST LOAD. GOOD.

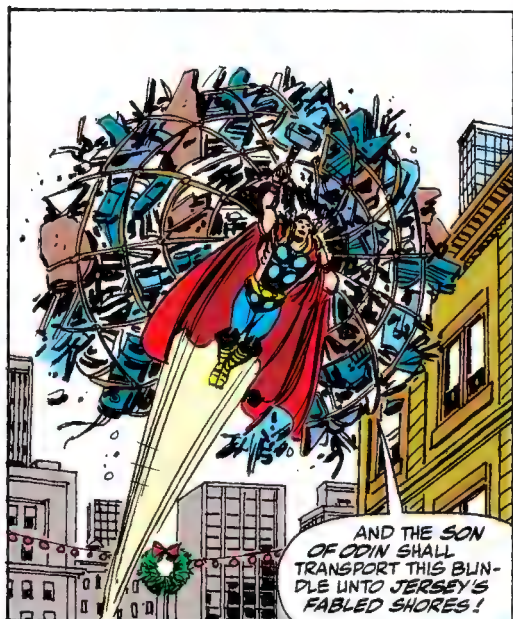
WE'VE ARRANGED FOR OUR JUNK TO BE DUMPED IN A GOVERNMENT LAND FILL IN JERSEY, WHERE IT WILL BE KEPT UNDER GUARD UNTIL WE CAN SORT THROUGH IT.

AYE AND AYE, CAPTAIN! THERE MAY BE MUCH WITHIN THIS TANGLED MASS WE WOULDST NOT WISH TO SEE IN ENEMY HANDS!



SO, STAND YE BACK...





AND THE SON OF ODIN SHALL TRANSPORT THIS BUNDLE UNTO JERSEY'S FABLED SHORES!



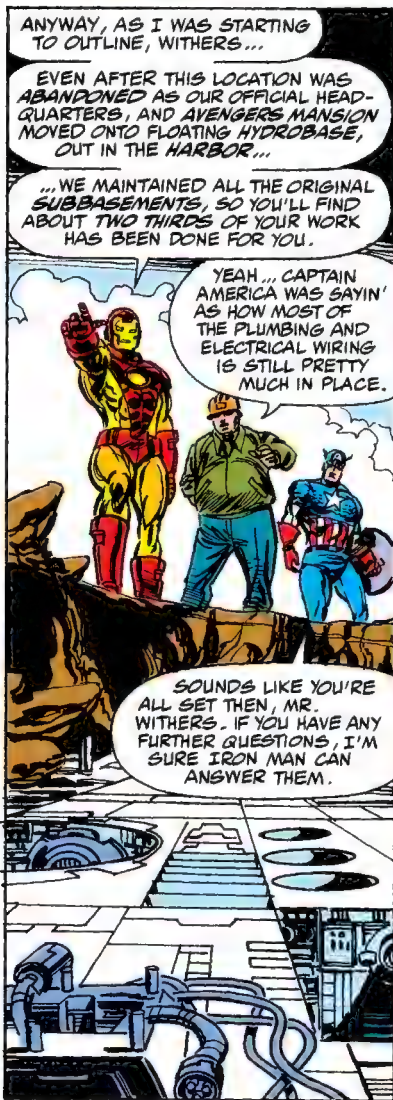
WOW!  
Y'KNOW, I'VE READ ABOUT THOR, EVEN SEEN HIM ONNA TV...

BUT UP CLOSE HE DOES KIND OF TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY. I KNOW.

AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING, WITHERS? YOU JUST NEVER GET USED TO IT!

A CURIOUS STATEMENT, IRON MAN, GIVEN THAT THIS IS ONLY THE THIRD OR FOURTH TIME YOU'VE EVER BEEN AROUND THOR.

OR SO YOU'D PREFER US TO BELIEVE.



ANYWAY, AS I WAS STARTING TO OUTLINE, WITHERS...

EVEN AFTER THIS LOCATION WAS ABANDONED AS OUR OFFICIAL HEAD-QUARTERS, AND AVENGERS MANSION MOVED ONTO FLOATING HYDROBASE, OUT IN THE HARBOR...

...WE MAINTAINED ALL THE ORIGINAL SUBBASEMENTS, SO YOU'LL FIND ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF YOUR WORK HAS BEEN DONE FOR YOU.

YEAH... CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS SAYIN' AS HOW MOST OF THE PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL WIRING IS STILL PRETTY MUCH IN PLACE.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ALL SET THEN, MR. WITHERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, I'M SURE IRON MAN CAN ANSWER THEM.



YES, STARK HAS BROUGHT ME FULLY UP TO DATE.

YES. I HAVE A SMALL... MISSION OF MY OWN TO ATTEND TO.

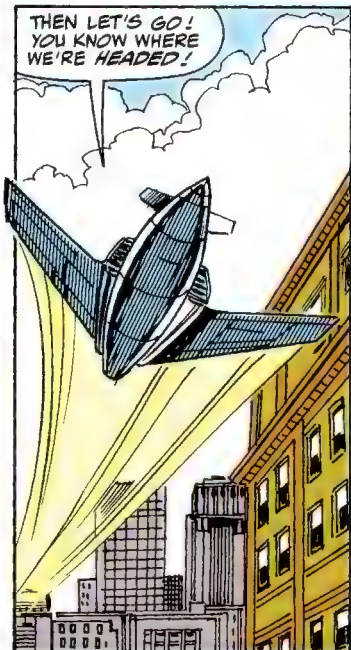
YOU'RE LEAVING US, CAPTAIN?



READY, JOHN?

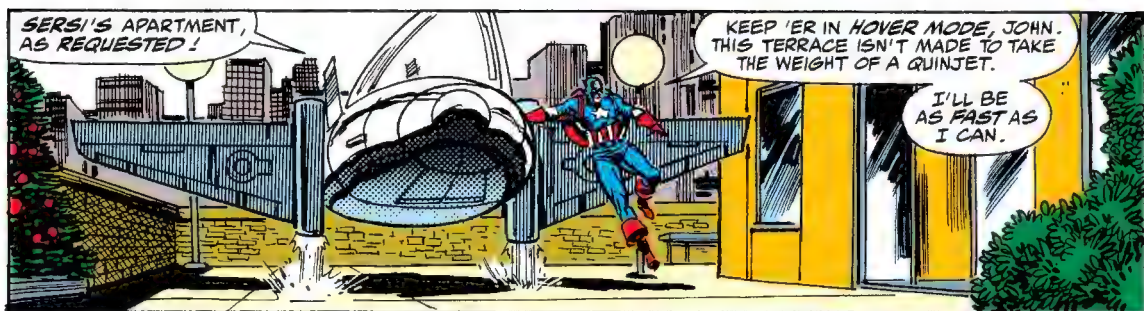
ALL SET, CAP.  
YOUR PRIVATE QUINJET'S BEEN REPAIRED SO WELL, YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT WAS WRECKED JUST A FEW DAYS AGO...\*

\*OR LAST ISSUE AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED.--HOWARD



THEN LET'S GO! YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADED!







"I WANT YOU TO JOIN THE AVENGERS!!"

VERILY, THIS BUSINESS WHICH  
HATH LATELY VEXED US DOOTH  
WORRY ME STILL!

MY EVIL HALF-BROTHER  
LOKI DIDST RECRUIT THE MOST  
POWERFUL OF MIDGARD'S  
VILLAINS IN A SCHEME TO  
DESTROY THE AVENGERS.

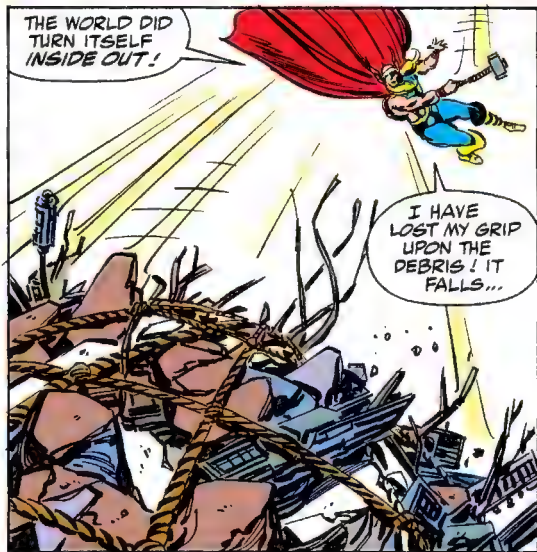
THO' HIS PLAN HATH FAILED,  
I WONDER NOW IF IT CAN BE  
TOO LONG BEFORE MY TREACH-  
EROUS SIBLING DOOTH...



OD'S  
BLOOD!!

THE WORLD DID  
TURN ITSELF  
INSIDE OUT!

I HAVE  
LOST MY GRIP  
UPON THE  
DEBRIS! IT  
FALLS...



"... AND YONDER SCHOOL YARD  
LIES DIRECTLY IN ITS PATH!"

"AND, BEHOLD! THE  
MORTAL CHILDREN AND  
THEIR TEACHERS DO  
WANDER AS IF SORELY  
DISTRACTED!"

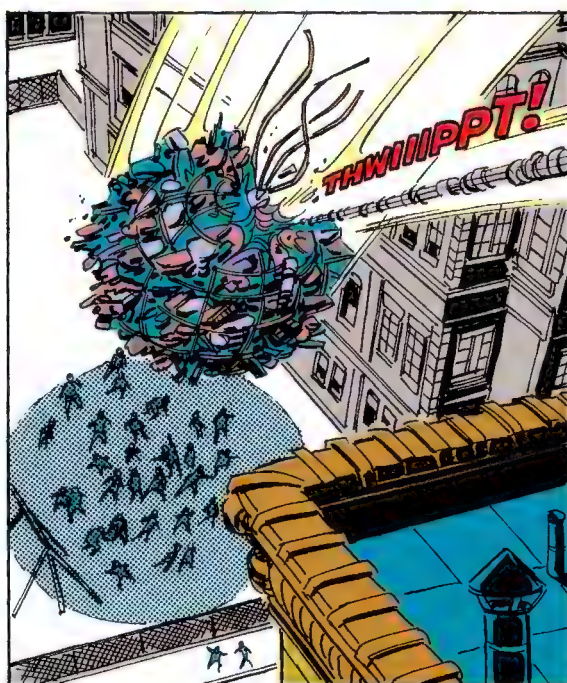
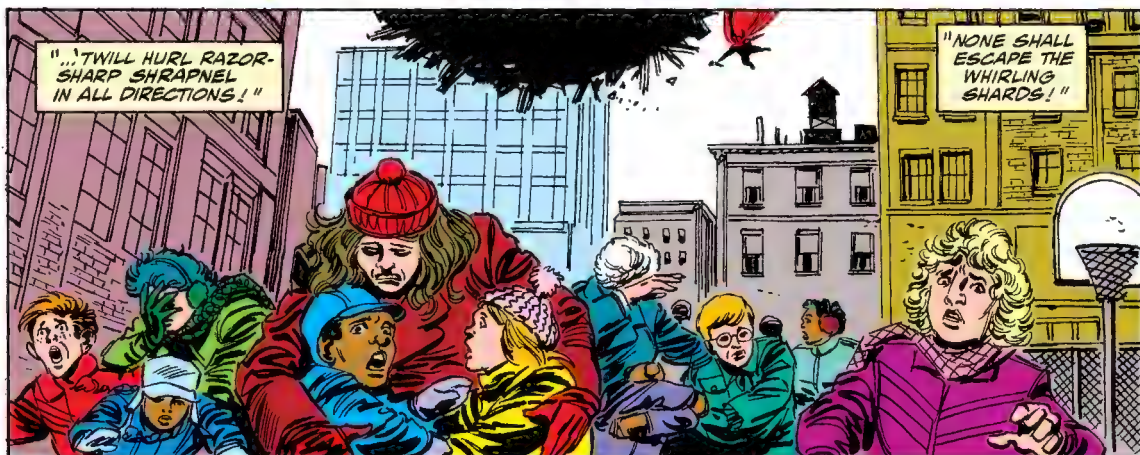
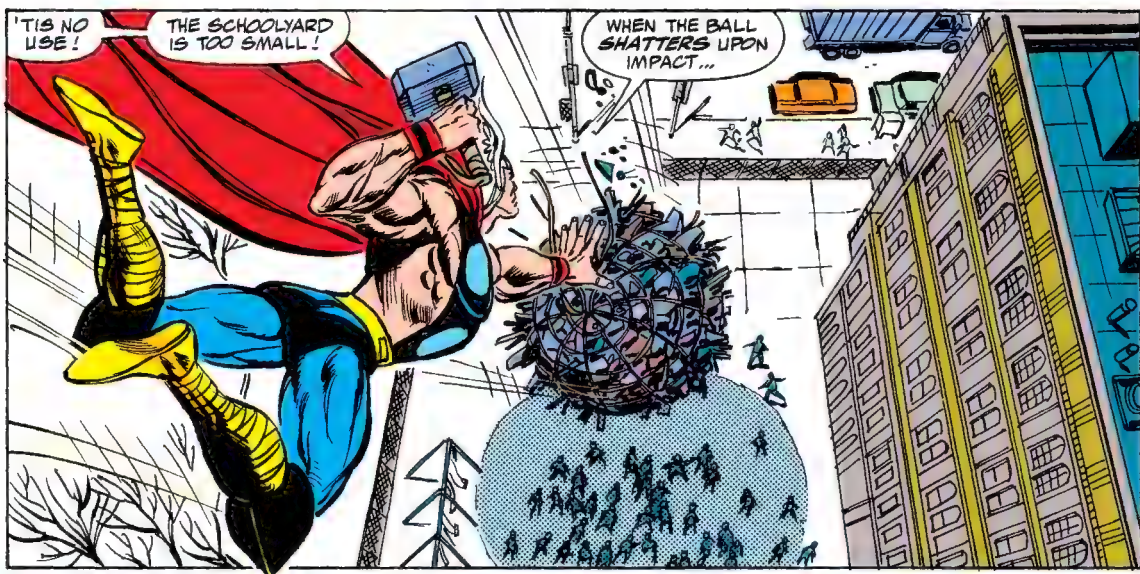
THE FLUX WHICH MADE  
ME DROP THE BALL HATH  
STAGGERED ALL!

LEE, MORTALS!  
LEE!

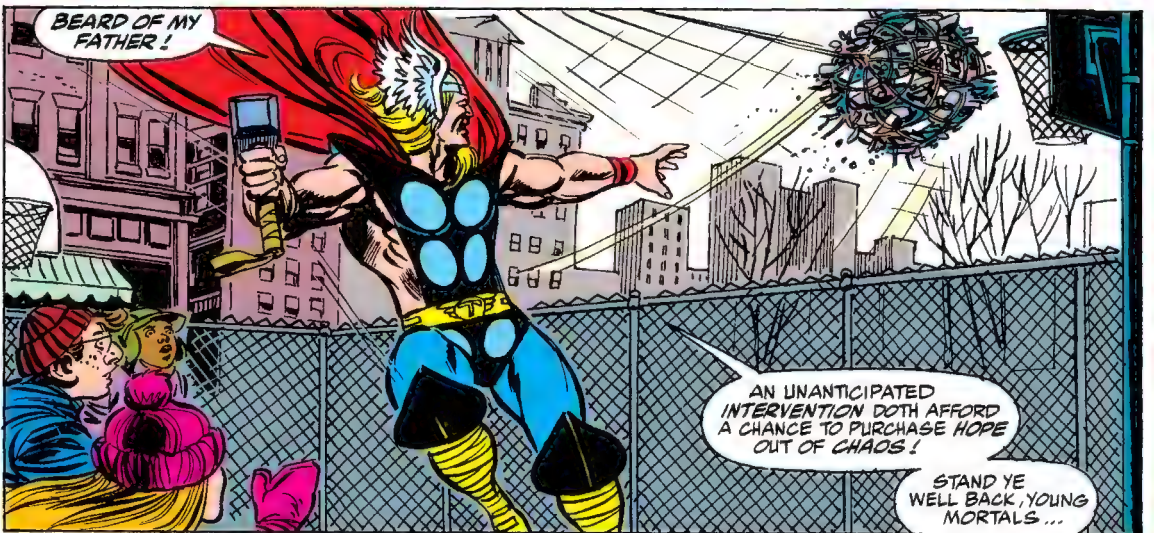
SEEK  
SHELTER!



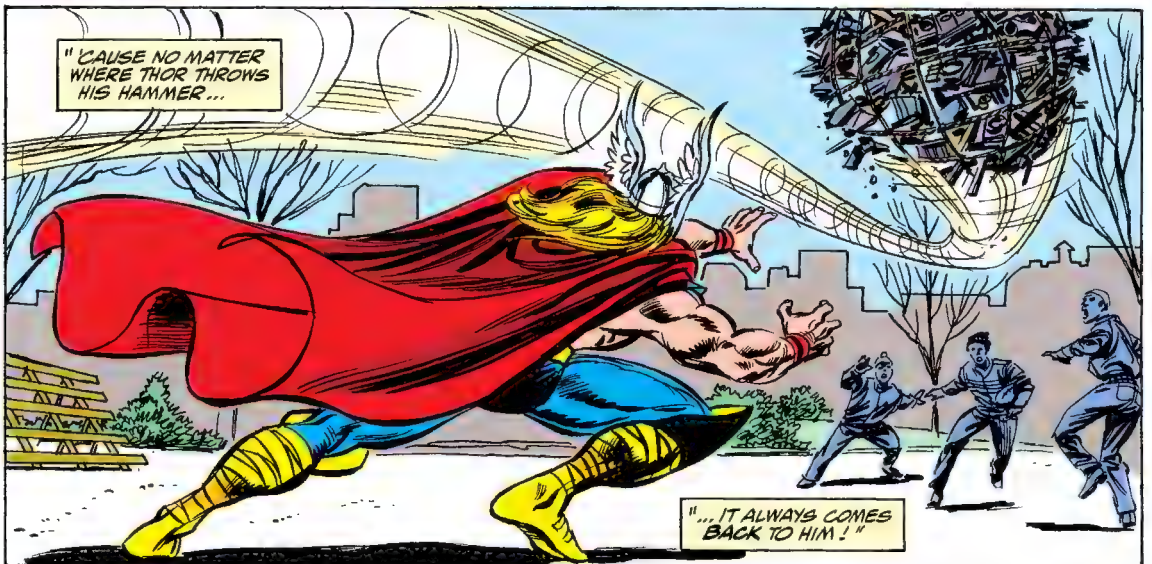
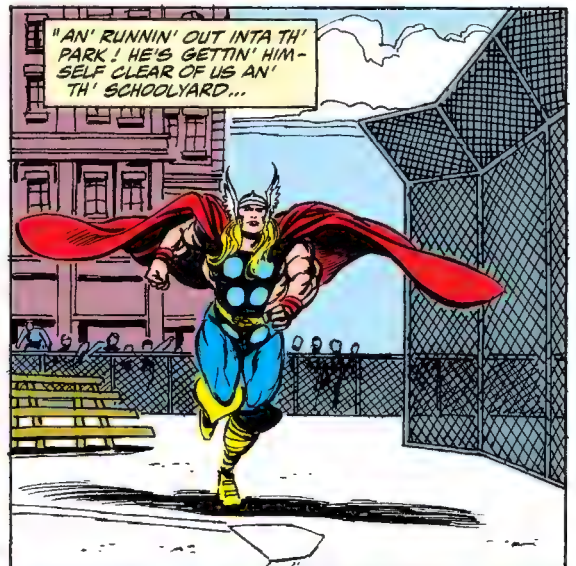
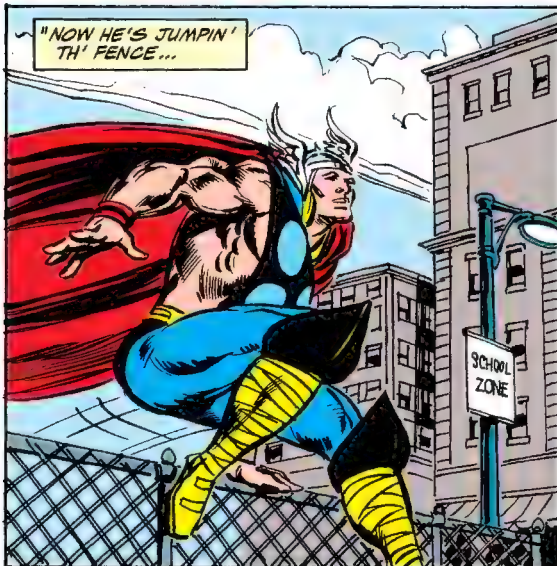
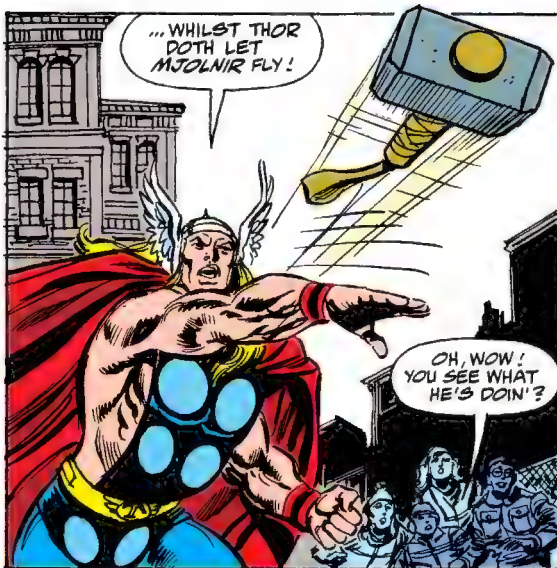




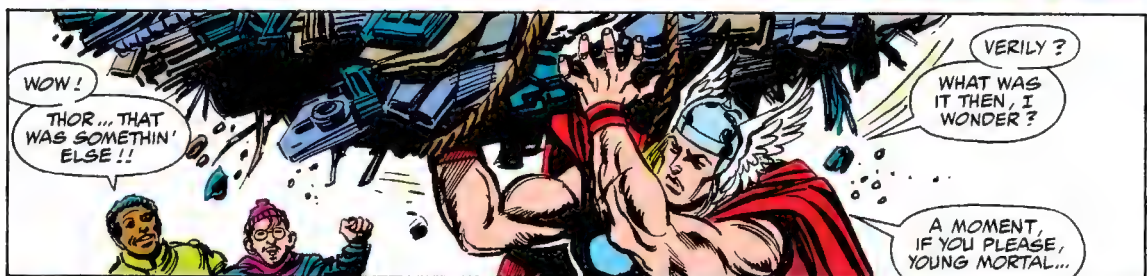
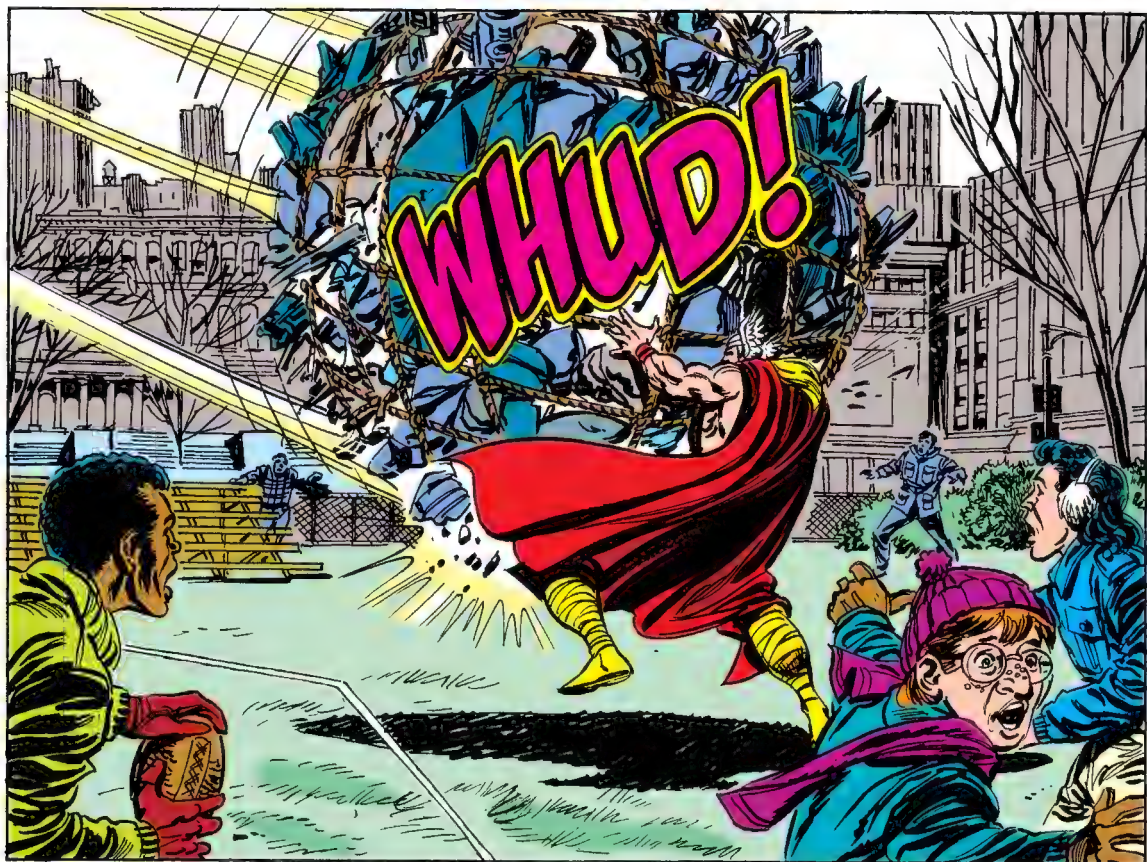




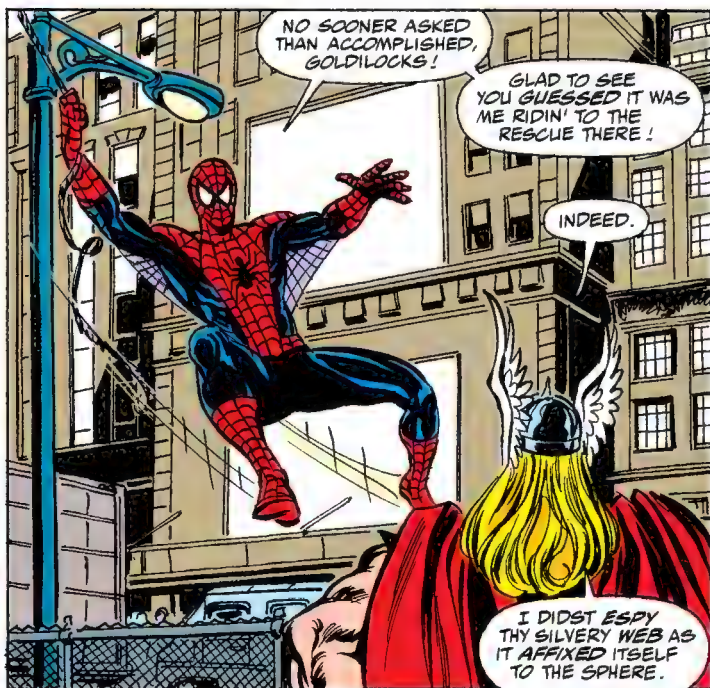




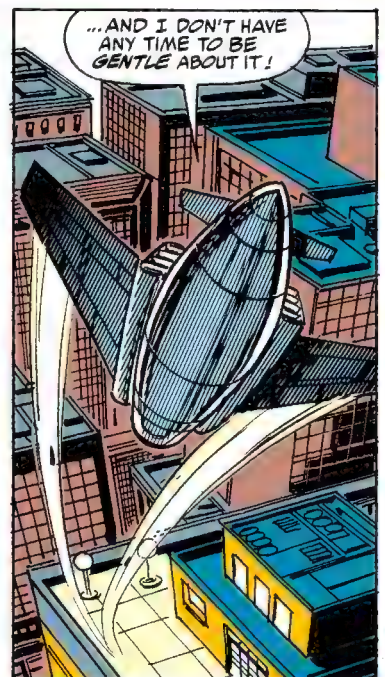
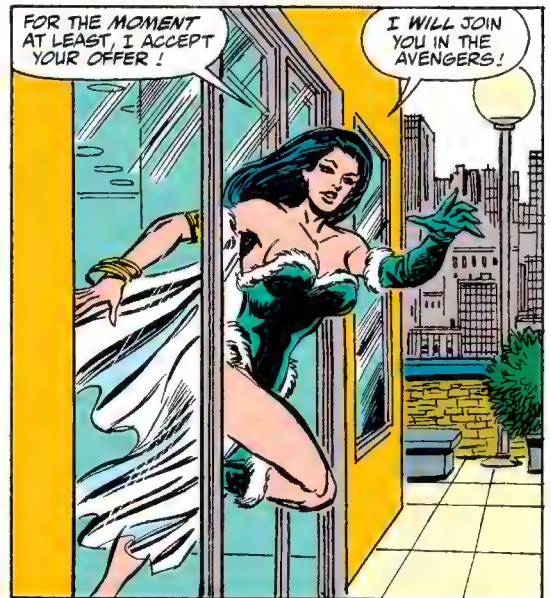
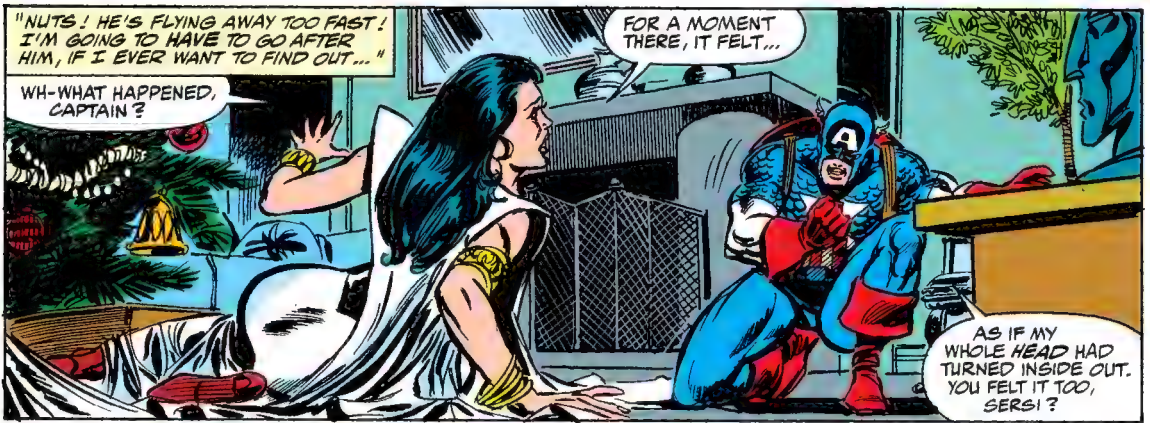




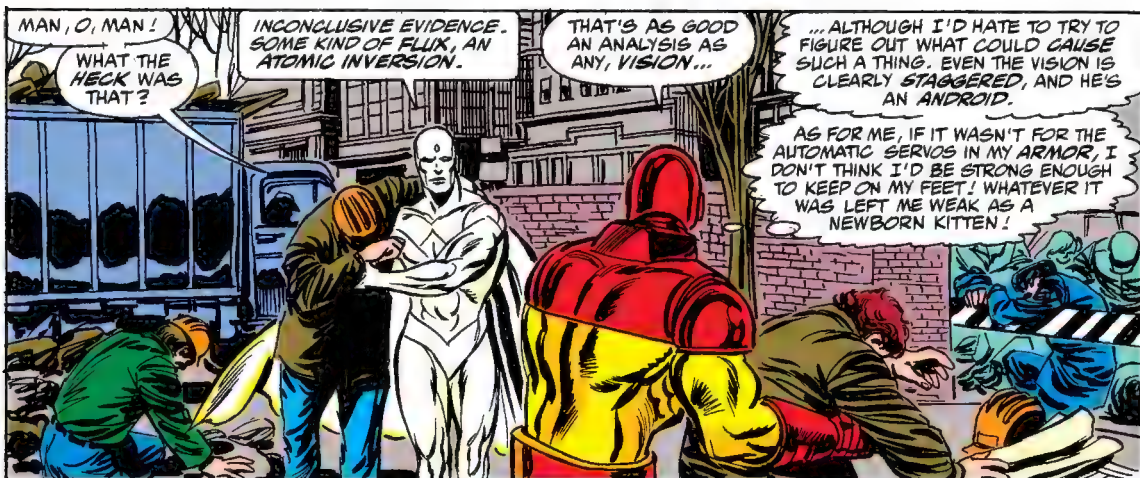












MAN, O, MAN!  
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.  
SOME KIND OF FLUX, AN  
ATOMIC INVERSION...

THAT'S AS GOOD  
AN ANALYSIS AS  
ANY, VISION...

... ALTHOUGH I'D HATE TO TRY TO  
FIGURE OUT WHAT COULD CAUSE  
SUCH A THING. EVEN THE VISION IS  
CLEARLY STAGGERED, AND HE'S  
AN ANDROID.

AS FOR ME, IF IT WASN'T FOR THE  
AUTOMATIC SERVOS IN MY ARMOR, I  
DON'T THINK I'D BE STRONG ENOUGH  
TO KEEP ON MY FEET! WHATEVER IT  
WAS LEFT ME WEAK AS A  
NEWBORN KITTEN!



LISTEN, IRON  
MAN... DO YOU  
HEAR? A SOFT  
LOWING ALL  
AROUND THE  
PARK.

THE SOUND OF THOUSANDS  
OF HUMAN VOICES MOANING.  
THIS EFFECT MUST HAVE  
BEEN WIDESPREAD INDEED.

HERE COMES CAPTAIN  
AMERICA. MAYBE HE'S  
GOT SOME ANSWERS.



IRON MAN! REPORT!  
DID THAT  
INVERSION EFFECT  
HIT HERE, TOO?

AFFIRMATIVE, CAPTAIN.  
IT KNOCKED ALL OF  
US FOR QUITE A LOOP,  
EVEN THE VISION. ANY  
THOUGHTS ON WHAT  
IT WAS?



NEGATIVE. I WAS  
WITH *SERS* WHEN  
IT HIT. SHE SEEMED  
AS BADLY PUT OUT  
BY IT AS I WAS.

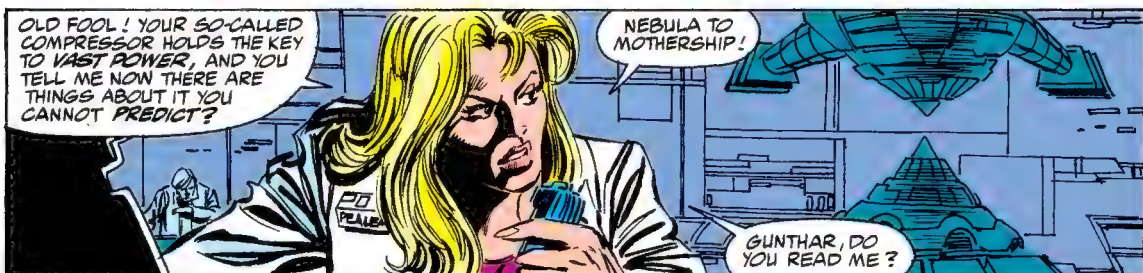
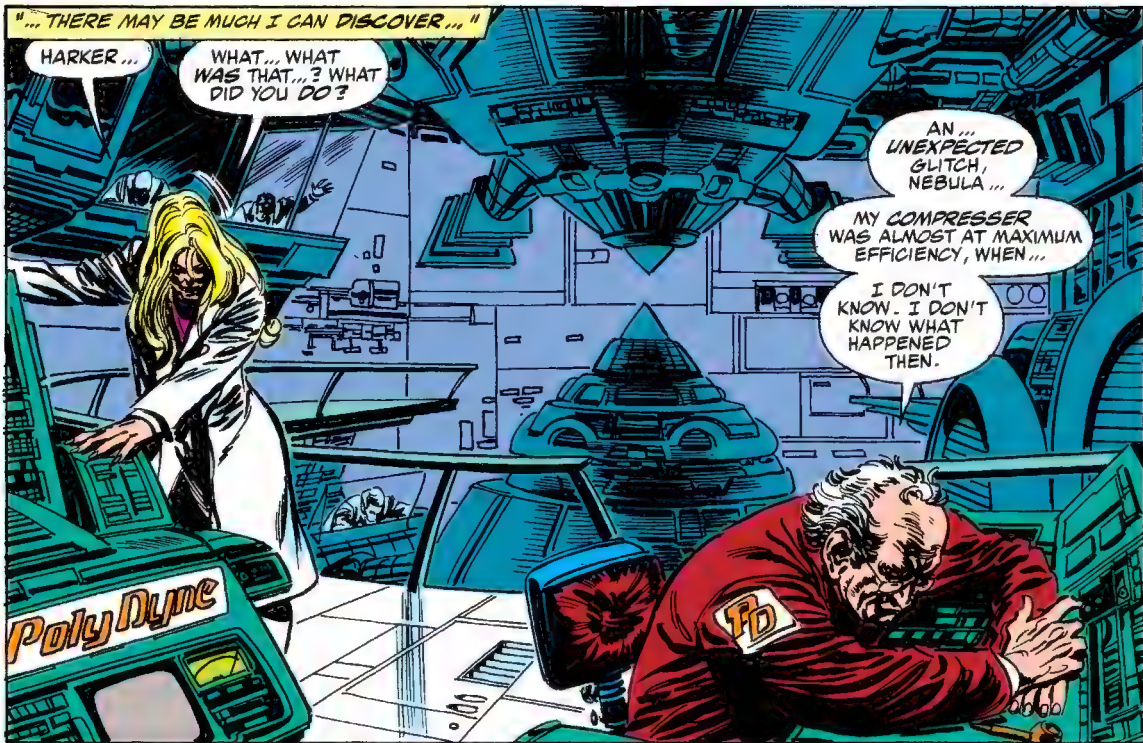
THAT'S BAD. AS AN  
ETERNAL, SHE'S IN COMPLETE  
MENTAL CONTROL OF EVERY  
ATOM OF HER BODY AT ALL  
TIMES. FOR HER TO BE  
HIT...



... THE EFFECT MUST  
HAVE BEEN MOST  
POWERFUL AND  
INSIDIOUS.

HOLD A WHILE, GENTLE-  
MEN, WHILE I SCAN THE  
PSYCHIC ETHER...

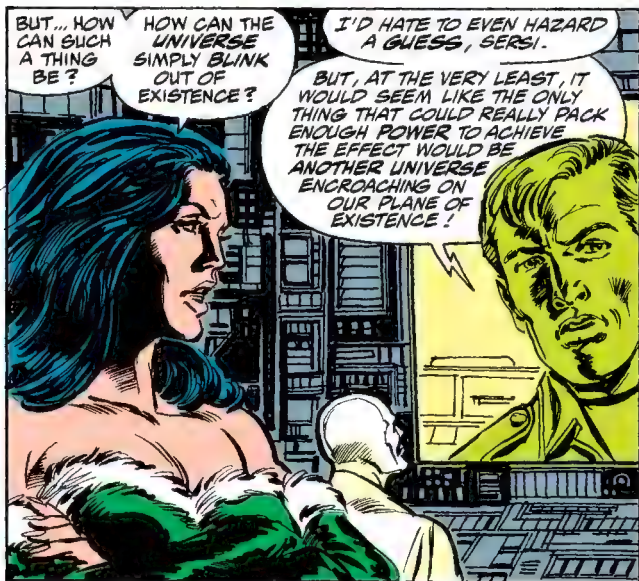
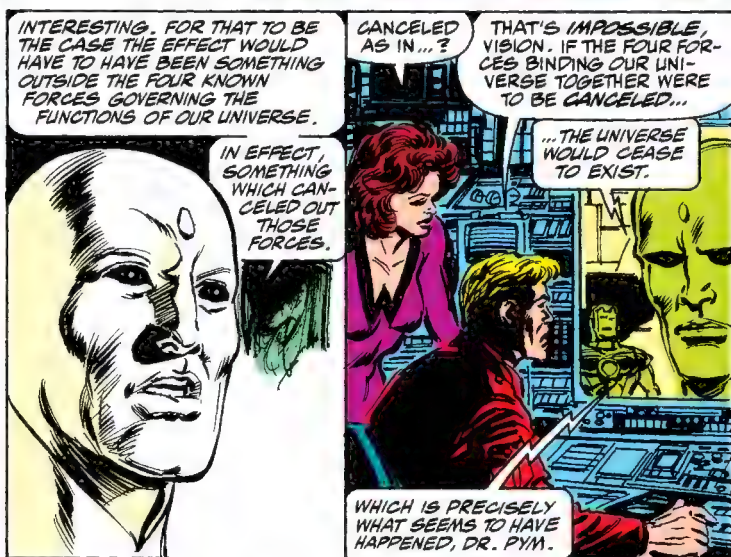
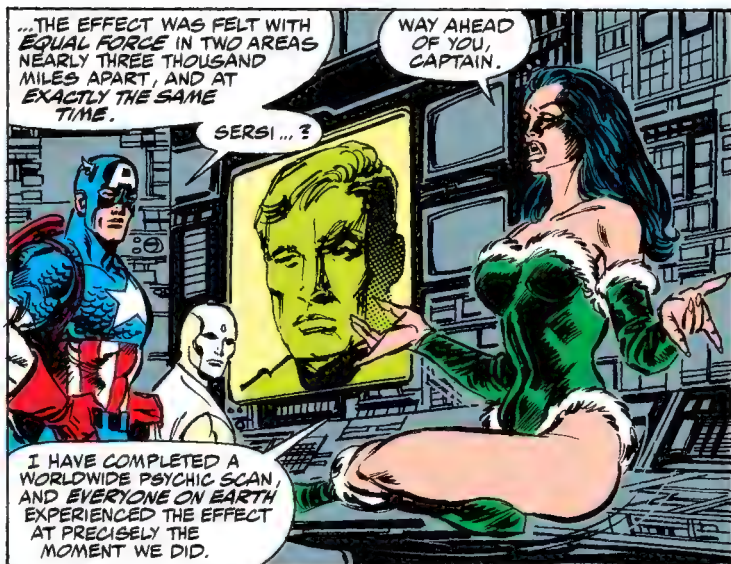




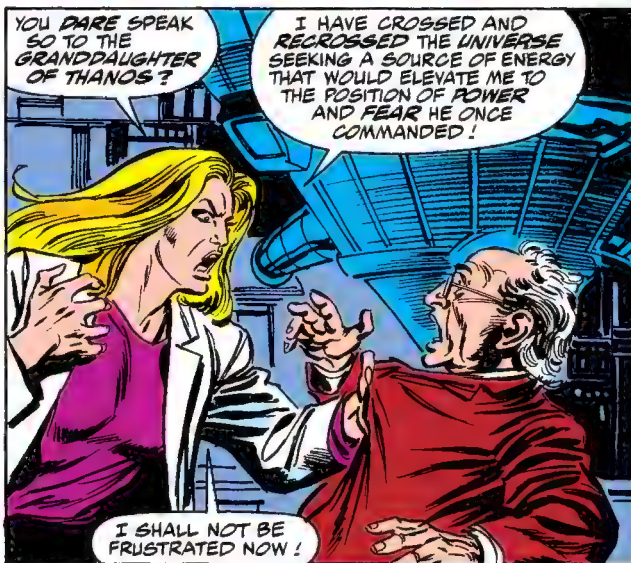
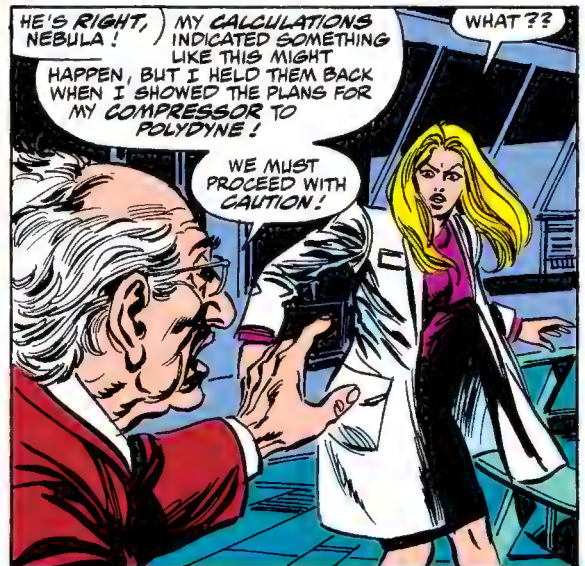
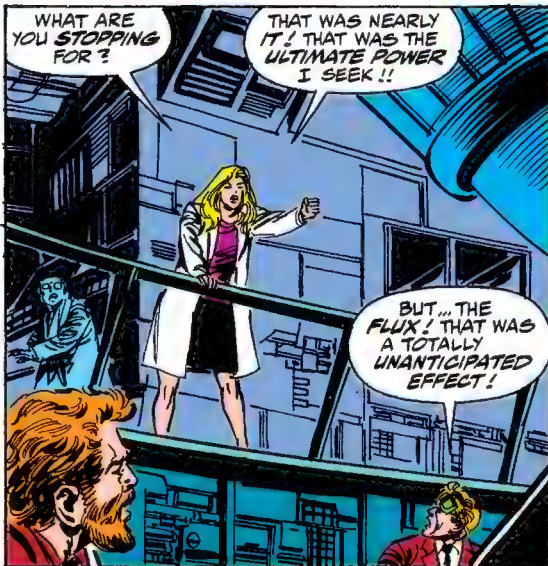
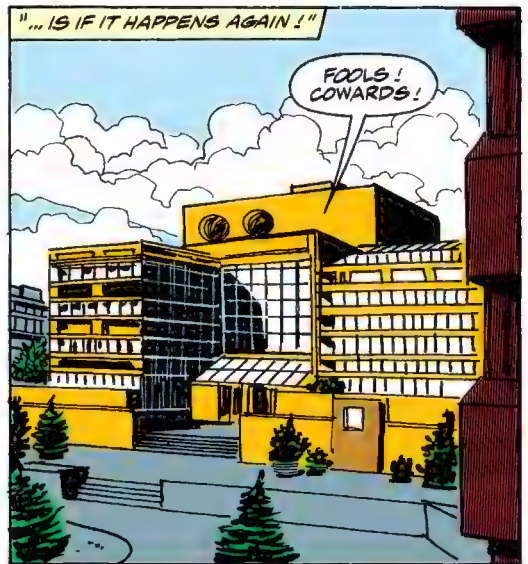




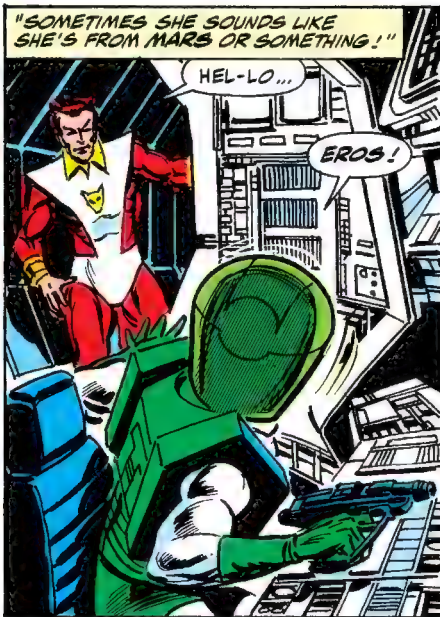








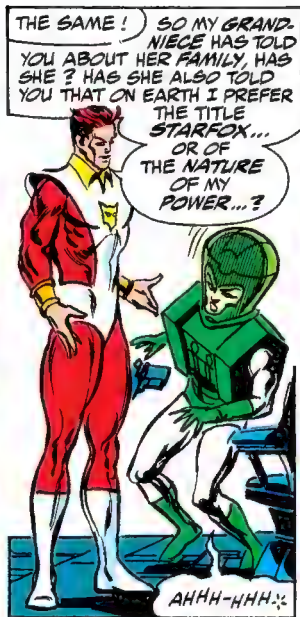




"SOMETIMES SHE SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S FROM MARS OR SOMETHING!"

HEL-LO...

EROS!

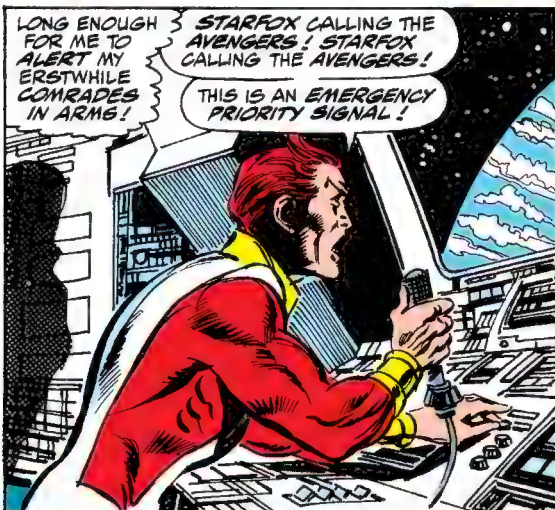


THE SAME! SO MY GRAND-NIECE HAS TOLD YOU ABOUT HER FAMILY, HAS SHE? HAS SHE ALSO TOLD YOU THAT ON EARTH I PREFER THE TITLE STARFOX... OR OF THE NATURE OF MY POWER...?

AHHH-HHH!!



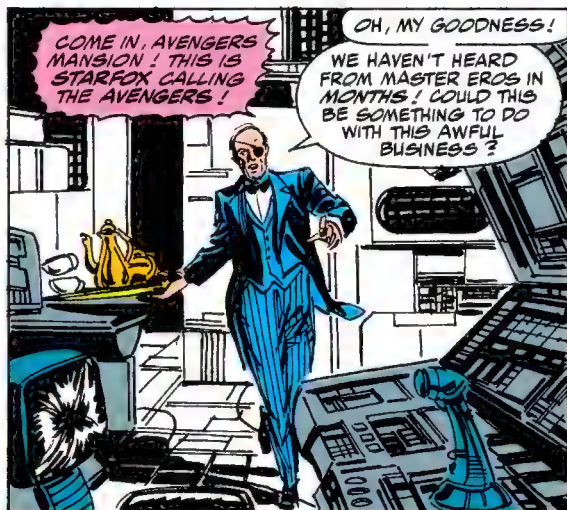
THERE. HE'LL DREAM PLEASANT DREAMS FOR AN HOUR OR TWO.



LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ALERT MY ERSTWHILE COMRADES IN ARMS!

STARFOX CALLING THE AVENGERS! STARFOX CALLING THE AVENGERS!

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY PRIORITY SIGNAL!



COME IN, AVENGERS MANSION! THIS IS STARFOX CALLING THE AVENGERS!

OH, MY GOODNESS! WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM MASTER EROS IN MONTHS! COULD THIS BE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS AWFUL BUSINESS?

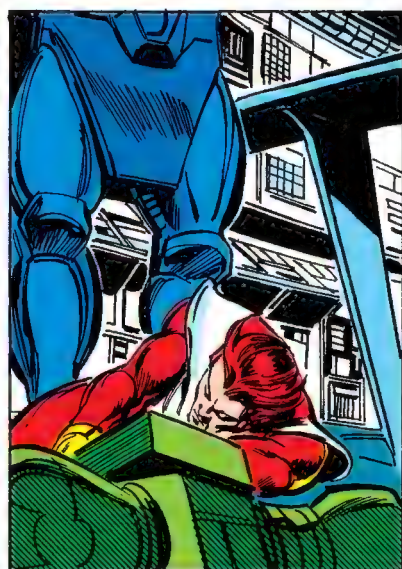


STARFOX CALLING THE AVENG--  
ERK!!

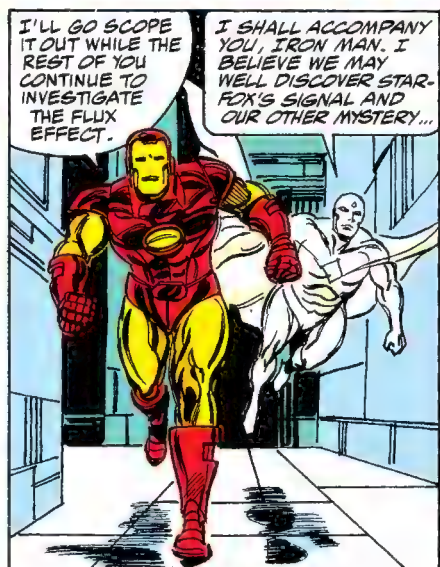
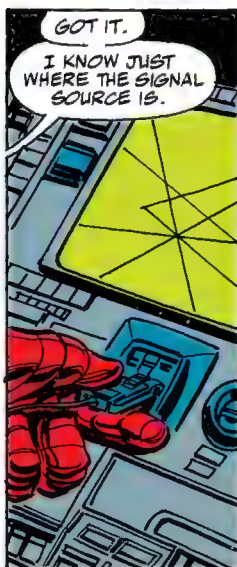


MASTER EROS?

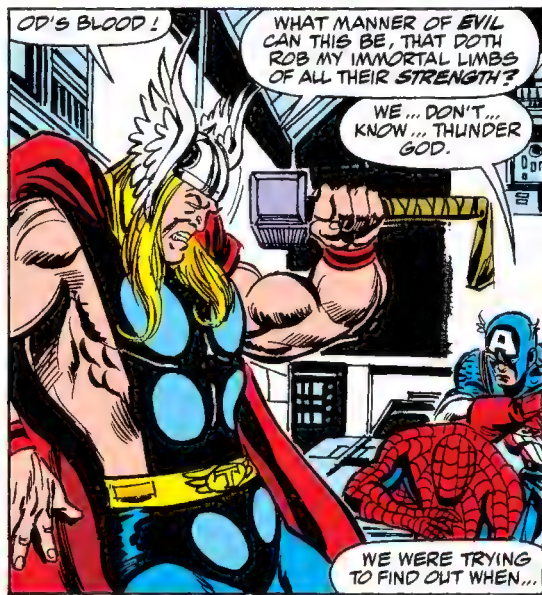
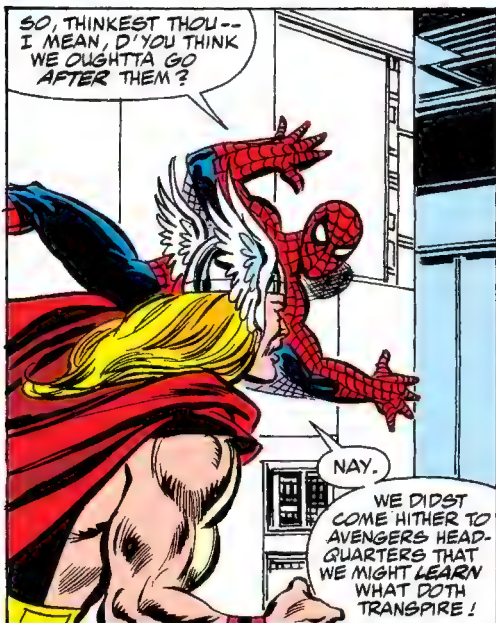
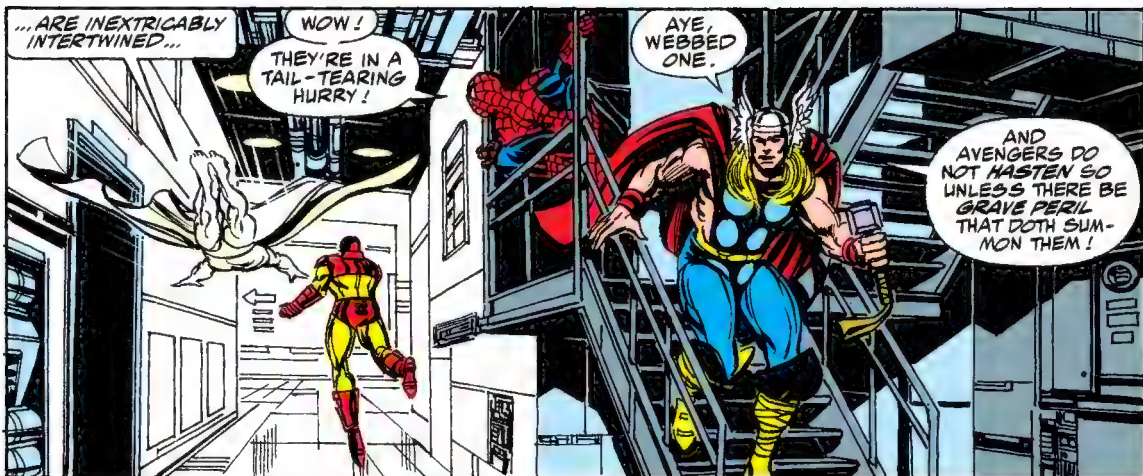
STARFOX?



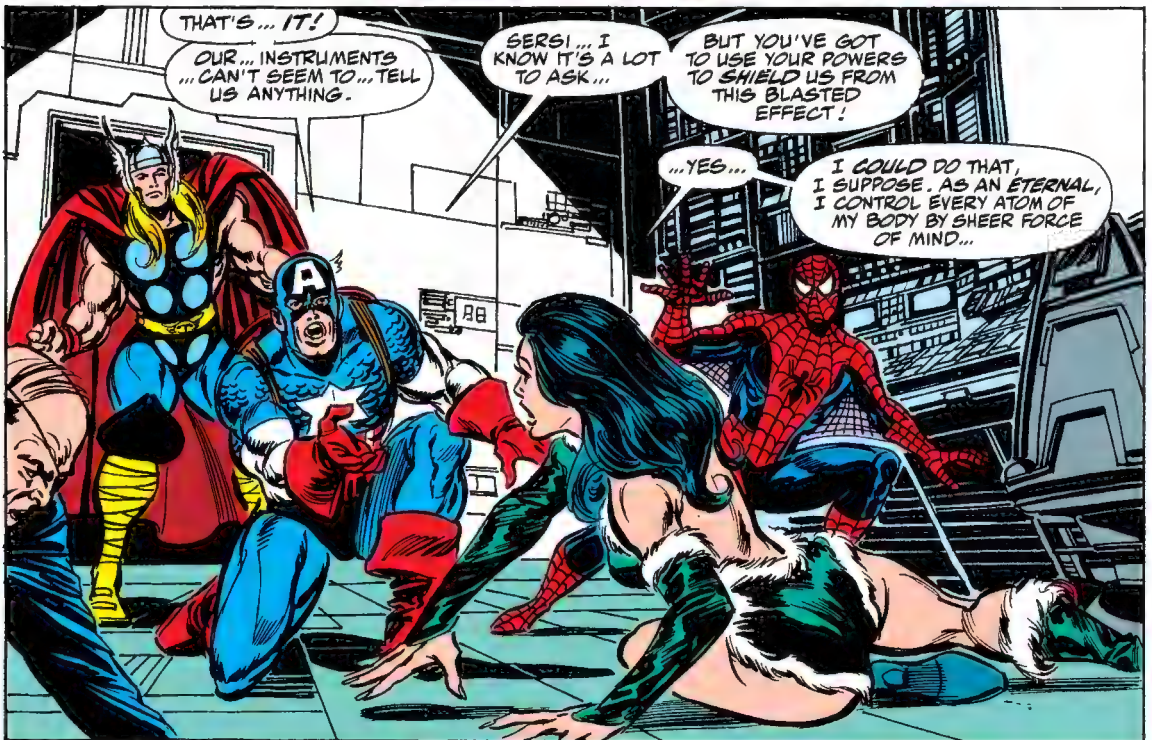




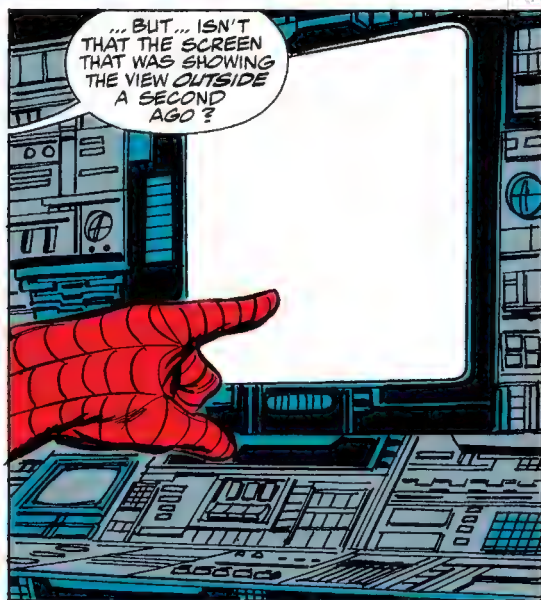
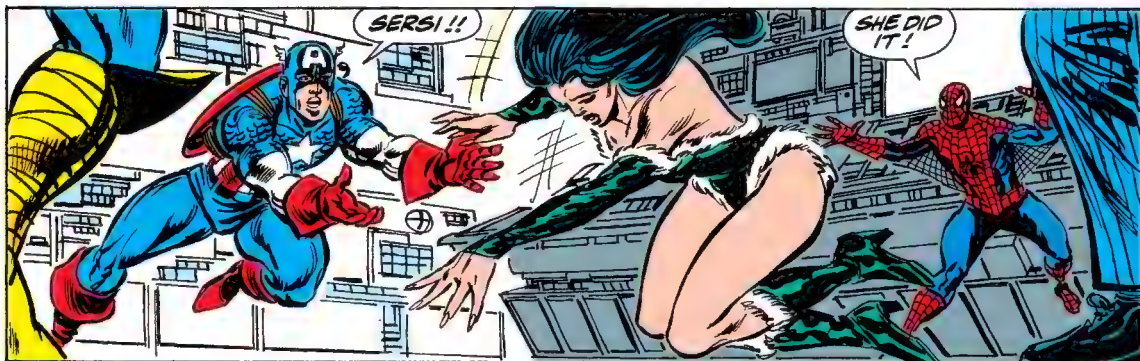
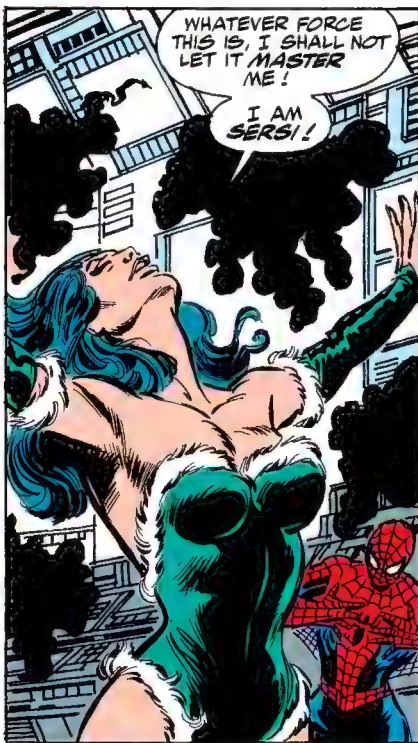






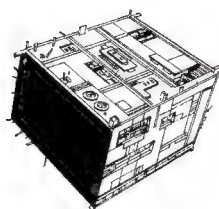








WHAT THE  
HECK'S HAPPENED  
TO THE REST OF THE  
UNIVERSE?!?



NEXT ISSUE:  
**DOOMSDAY**  
--PLUS ONE!



**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**



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# AVENGERS

GUEST-  
STARRING  
the **AMAZING**  
**SPIDER-MAN!**

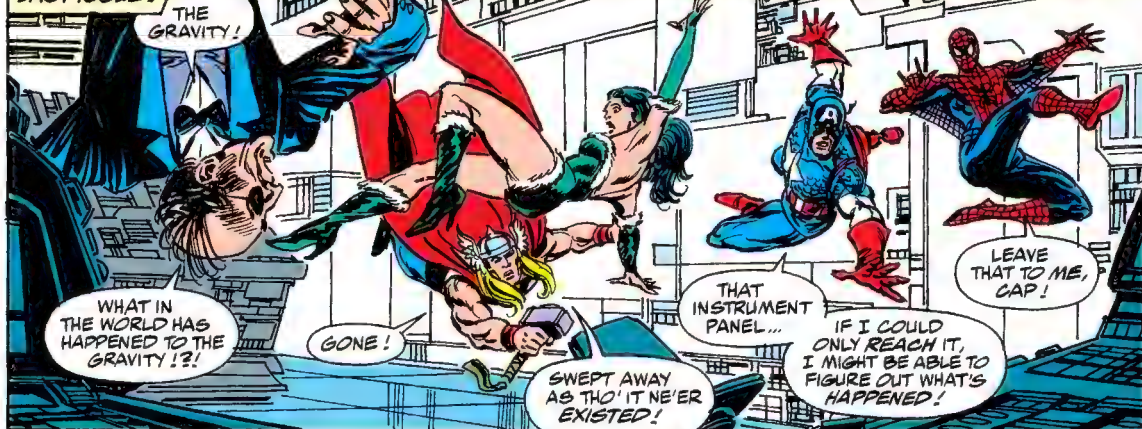
THE ENEMY  
REVEALED--

WHILE A  
UNIVERSE  
TREMBLES!

RYAN PALMER

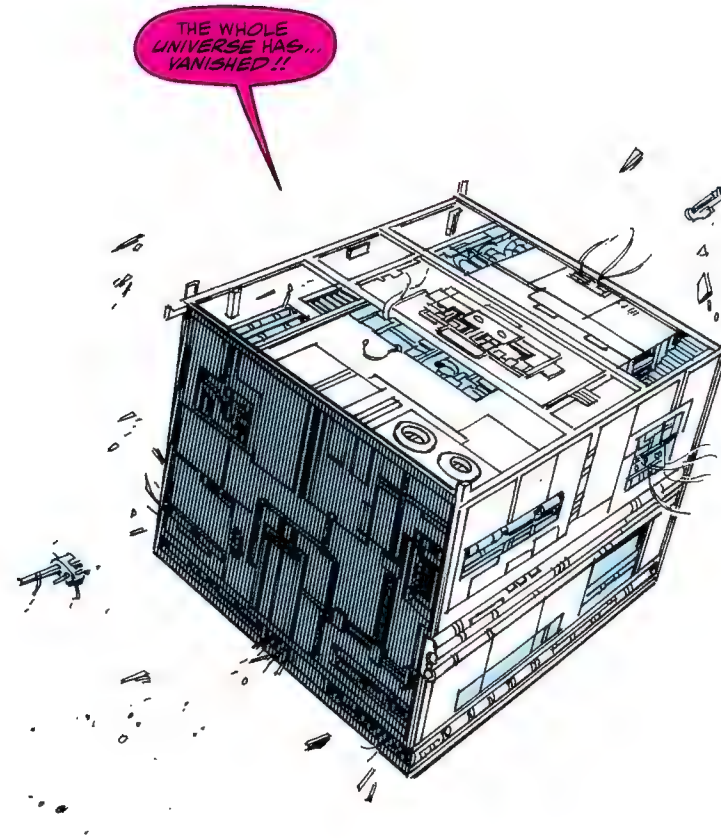


THE MAIN ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE AVENGERS' TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS, EXACTLY ONE SECOND AFTER LAST ISSUE!



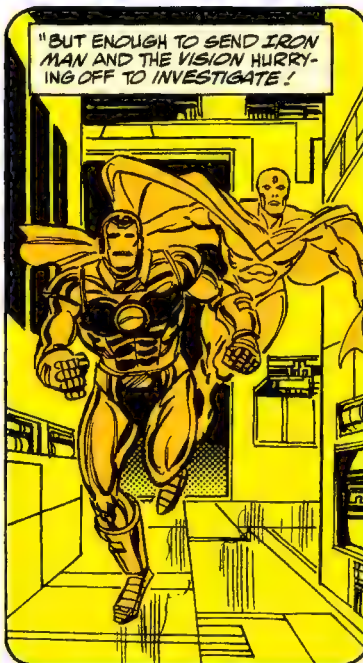


# DOOMSDAY PLUS ONE!

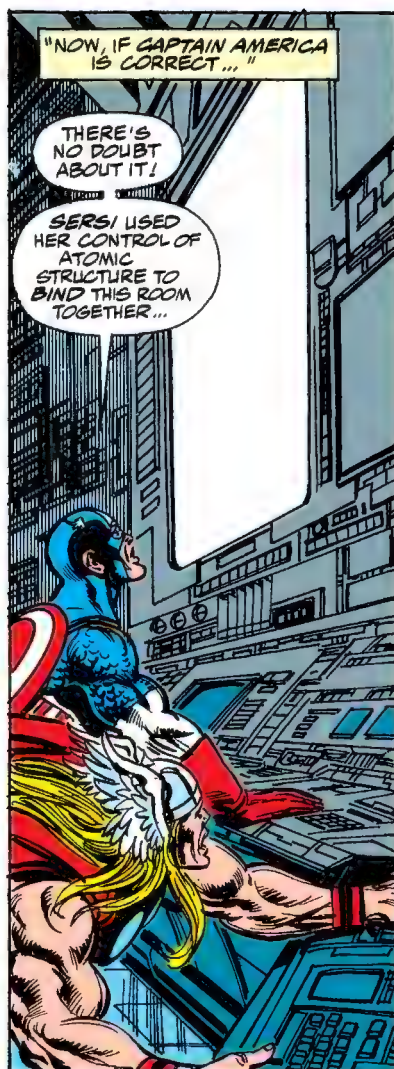


PAUL & TOM / ARTISTS  
RYAN & PALMER / ARTISTS  
JOHN BYRNE / WRITER  
BILL OAKLEY / LETTERER  
CHRISTIE SCHEELE / COLORIST  
HOWARD MACKIE / EDITOR  
TOM DEFALCO / DOOMSAYER





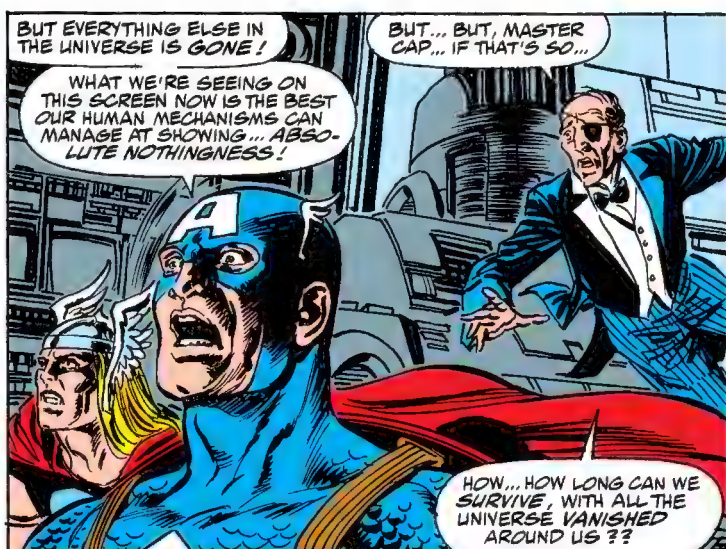




"NOW, IF CAPTAIN AMERICA IS CORRECT ..."

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

SERSI USED HER CONTROL OF ATOMIC STRUCTURE TO BIND THIS ROOM TOGETHER...

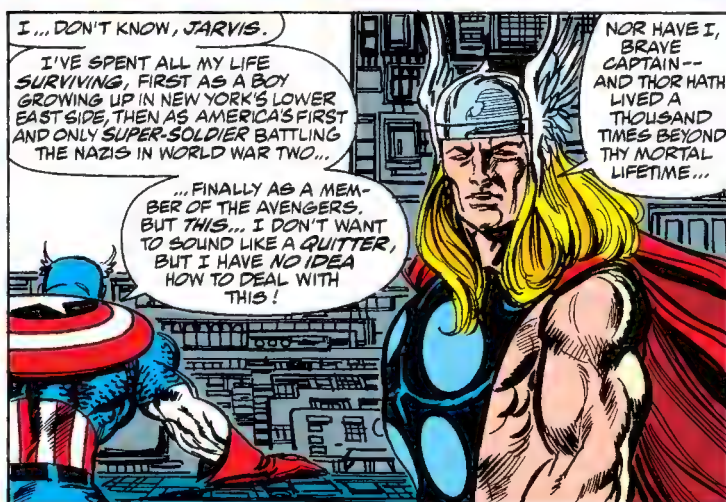


BUT EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE IS GONE!

BUT... BUT, MASTER CAP... IF THAT'S SO...

WHAT WE'RE SEEING ON THIS SCREEN NOW IS THE BEST OUR HUMAN MECHANISMS CAN MANAGE AT SHOWING... ABSOLUTE NOTHINGNESS!

HOW... HOW LONG CAN WE SURVIVE, WITH ALL THE UNIVERSE VANISHED AROUND US??



I ... DON'T KNOW, JARVIS.

I'VE SPENT ALL MY LIFE SURVIVING, FIRST AS A BOY GROWING UP IN NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE, THEN AS AMERICA'S FIRST AND ONLY SUPER-SOLDIER BATTLING THE NAZIS IN WORLD WAR TWO...

... FINALLY AS A MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS. BUT THIS... I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LIKE A QUITTER, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS!

NOR HAVE I, BRAVE CAPTAIN-- AND THOR HATH LIVED A THOUSAND TIMES BEYOND THY MORTAL LIFETIME...



HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

MAYBE I'M GRASPING AT STRAWS HERE-- IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME, I'M SO FAR OUT OF MY DEPTH-- BUT YOU SAID THIS WAS A LONG RANGE SCANNER, CAP!



I KNOW A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT CAMERAS.

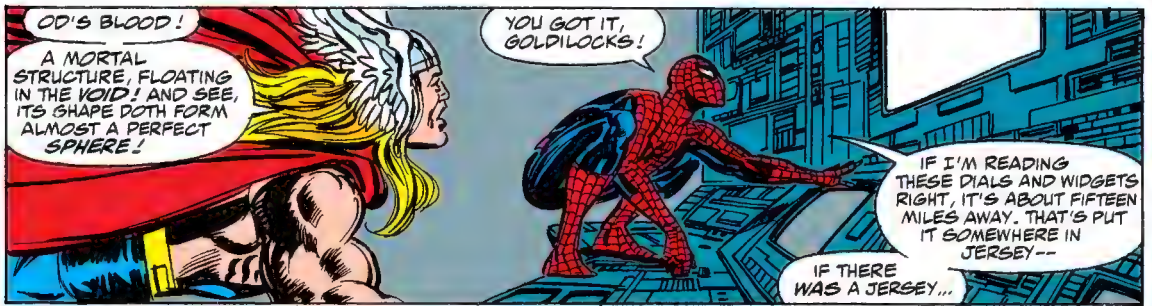
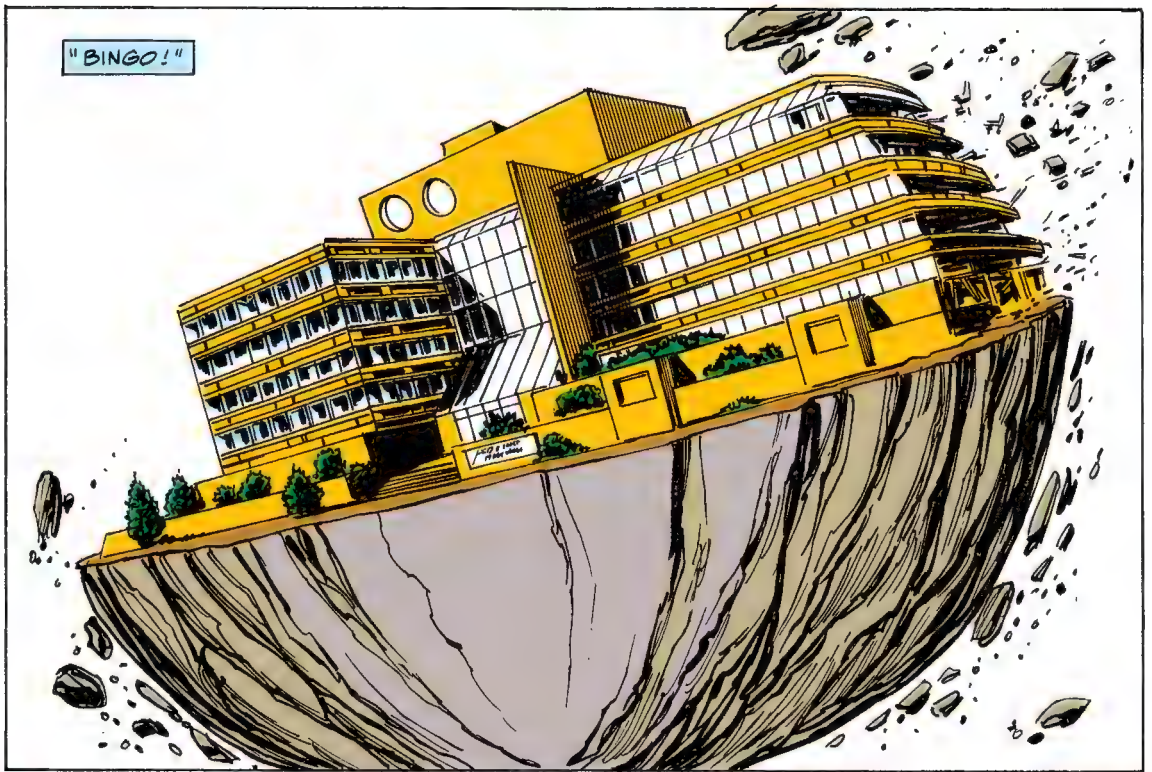
MAYBE IF WE ADJUST THE DEPTH OF FOCUS... PULL BACK SO WE'RE NOT LOOKING OUT SO FAR...



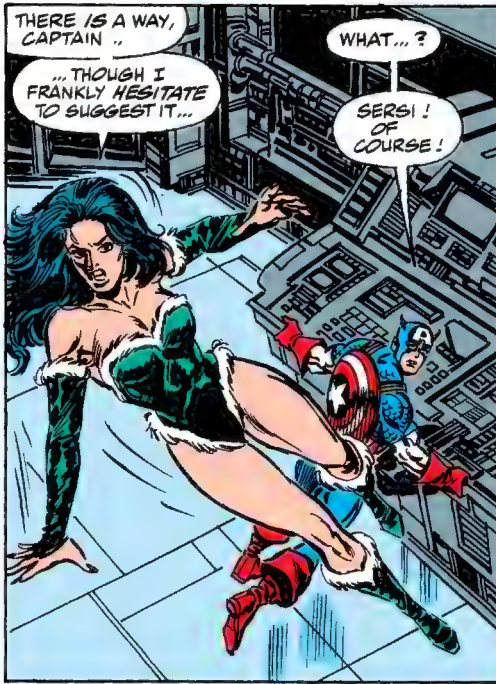
... WE MIGHT PICK UP SOMETHING CLOSER...

SOMETHING THAT'S NOT REGISTERING, THE WAY DUST DOESN'T REGISTER ON A NORMAL CAMERA LENS...









THERE IS A WAY, CAPTAIN ..

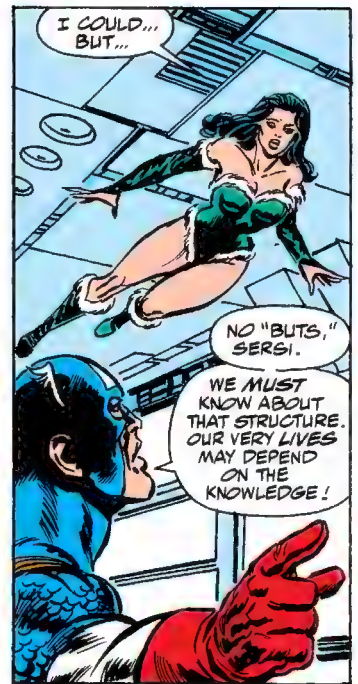
...THOUGH I FRANKLY HESITATE TO SUGGEST IT...

WHAT... ?

SERSI ! OF COURSE !



WITH YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES, YOU COULD REACH OUT TO THAT BUILDING, DISCOVER IF THERE'S ANYONE ALIVE OVER THERE !



I COULD... BUT...

NO "BUTS," SERSI.

WE MUST KNOW ABOUT THAT STRUCTURE. OUR VERY LIVES MAY DEPEND ON THE KNOWLEDGE !



VERY WELL, CAPTAIN.

I HAVE ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AVENGERS MEMBERSHIP.



I WILL DO WHAT I CAN TO...

...TO...



NO-OHHH !!



SERSI !

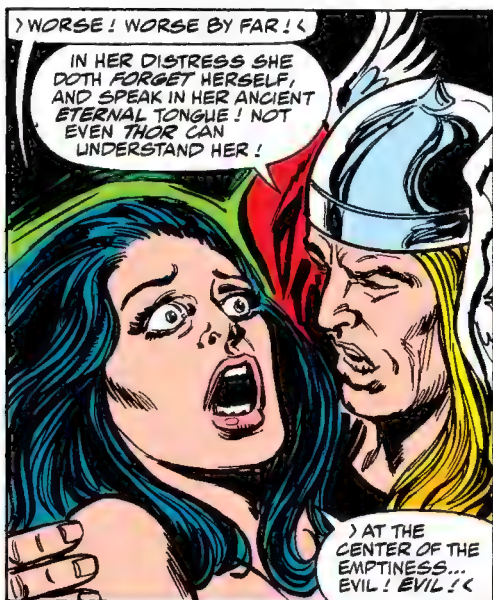


SHE DOTH CURL ABOUT HERSELF LIKE AN UNBORN BABE ! HER CRY DIDST HARKEN TO MY MIND HER SIM'LAR SCREAM WHEN SHE DIDST PROBE INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE... \*

>...NO... NO... <

\*IN AVENGERS #309.~ H.M.

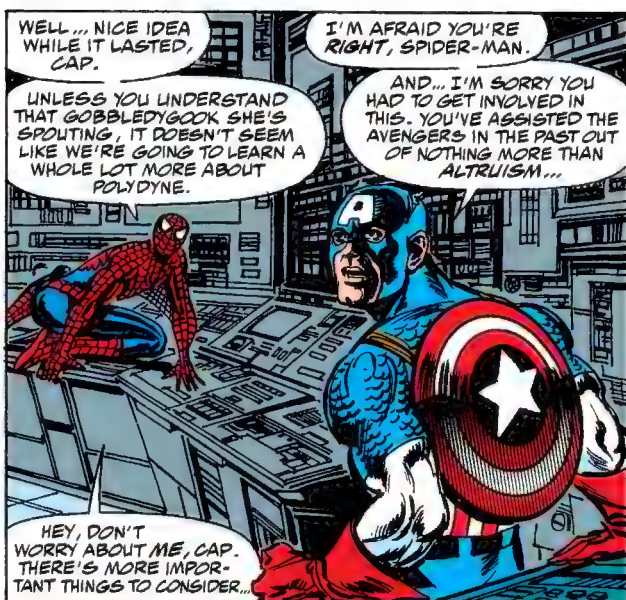




> WORSE ! WORSE BY FAR ! <

IN HER DISTRESS SHE  
DOETH FORGET HERSELF,  
AND SPEAK IN HER ANCIENT  
ETERNAL TONGUE ! NOT  
EVEN THOR CAN  
UNDERSTAND HER !

> AT THE  
CENTER OF THE  
EMPTYNESS...  
EVIL ! EVIL ! <



WELL... NICE IDEA  
WHILE IT LASTED,  
CAP.

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE  
RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN.

UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND  
THAT GOBBLEDYGOOK SHE'S  
SPOUTING, IT DOESN'T SEEM  
LIKE WE'RE GOING TO LEARN A  
WHOLE LOT MORE ABOUT  
POLYDYNE.

AND... I'M SORRY YOU  
HAD TO GET INVOLVED IN  
THIS. YOU'VE ASSISTED THE  
AVENGERS IN THE PAST OUT  
OF NOTHING MORE THAN  
ALTRUISM...

HEY, DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT ME, CAP.  
THERE'S MORE IMPOR-  
TANT THINGS TO CONSIDER...

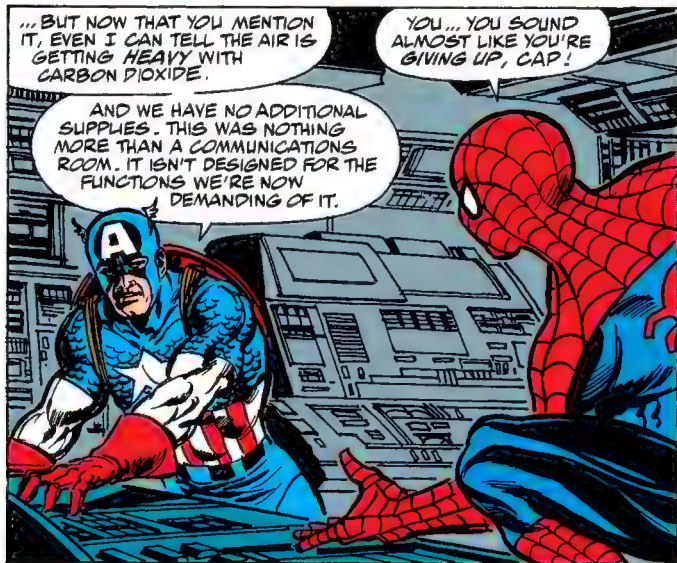


NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH  
IS OUR AIR SUPPLY !

I DO BELIEVE THE ATMOS-  
PHERE IN HERE IS GETTING  
RATHER... STALE !

YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
JARVIS !

MY SUPER-EFFICIENT  
BIO-SYSTEM PROCESSES  
AIR BETTER THAN ANOTHER  
HUMAN BEING'S MIGHT...



... BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION  
IT, EVEN I CAN TELL THE AIR IS  
GETTING HEAVY WITH  
CARBON DIOXIDE.

YOU... YOU SOUND  
ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE  
GIVING UP, CAP !

AND WE HAVE NO ADDITIONAL  
SUPPLIES. THIS WAS NOTHING  
MORE THAN A COMMUNICATIONS  
ROOM. IT ISN'T DESIGNED FOR THE  
FUNCTIONS WE'RE NOW  
DEMANDING OF IT.

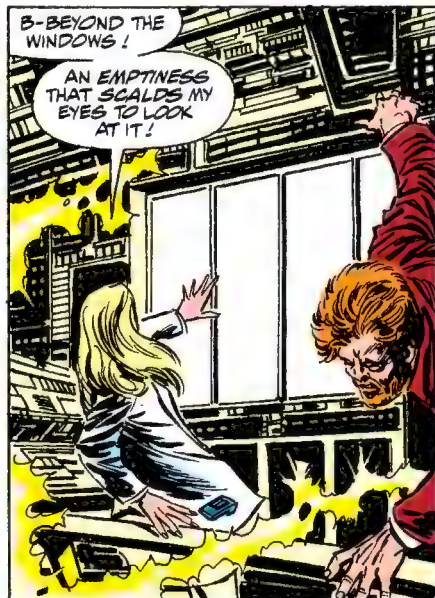
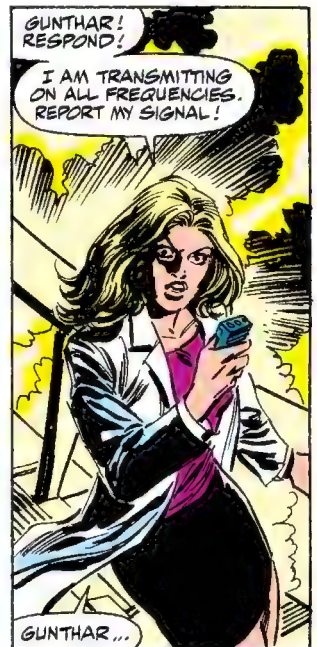
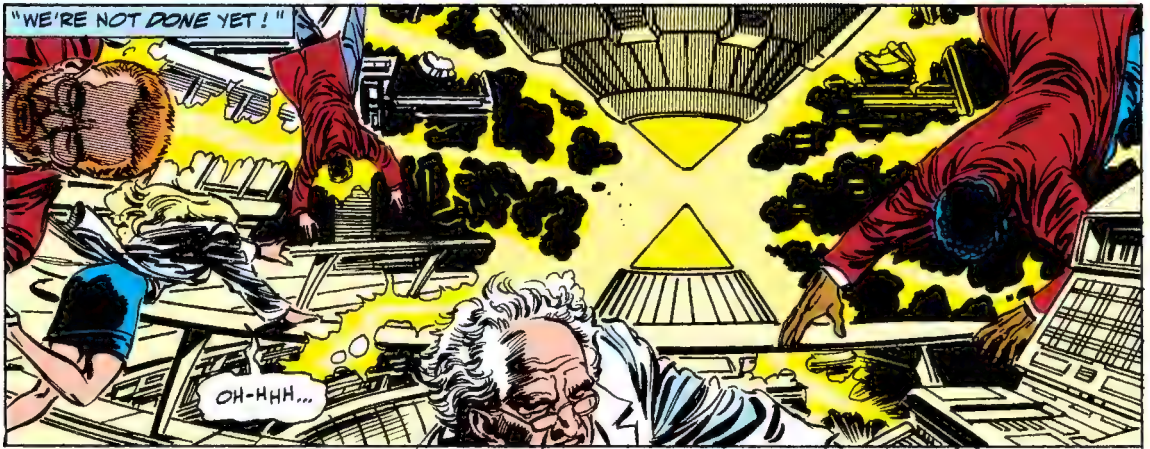


NOT YET,  
WEB-SLINGER !

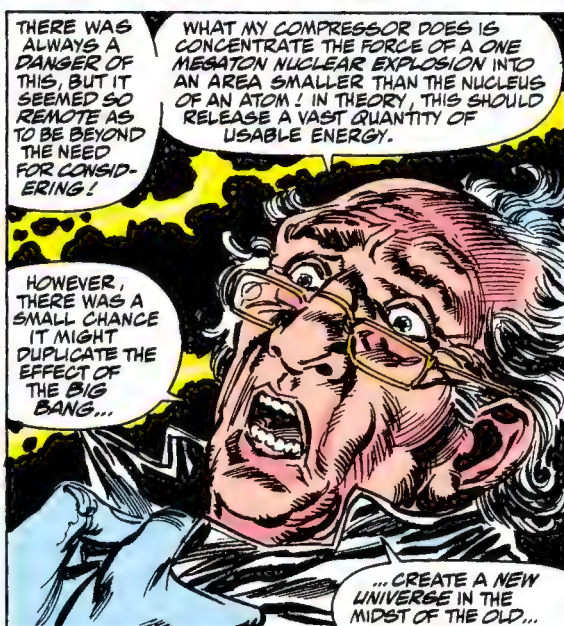
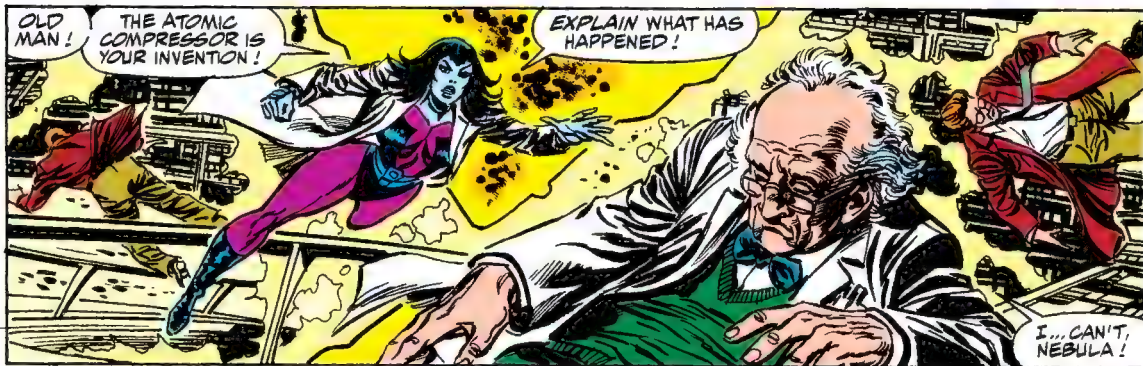
IF I'VE LEARNED  
NOTHING ELSE IN MY  
YEARS OF BATTLE,  
I'VE LEARNED THE  
ABSOLUTE TRUTH  
OF ONE OLD  
SAYING :

WHILE  
THERE'S LIFE,  
THERE'S HOPE !

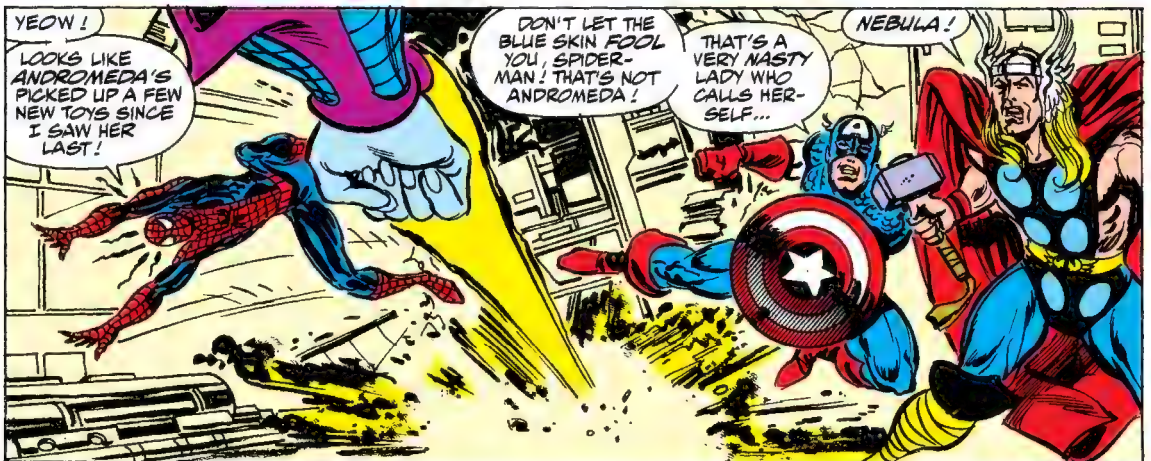
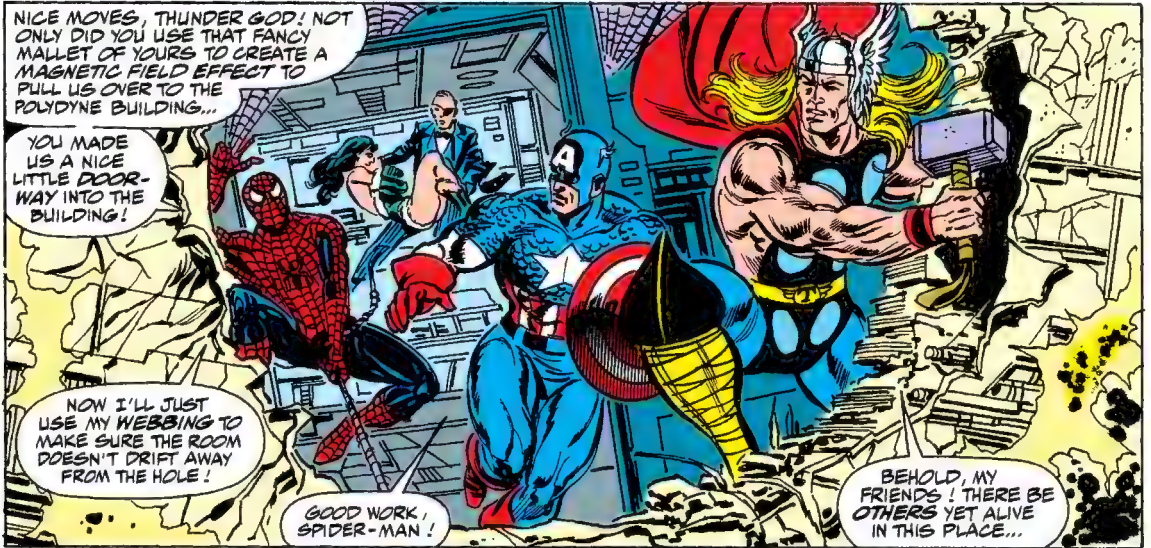
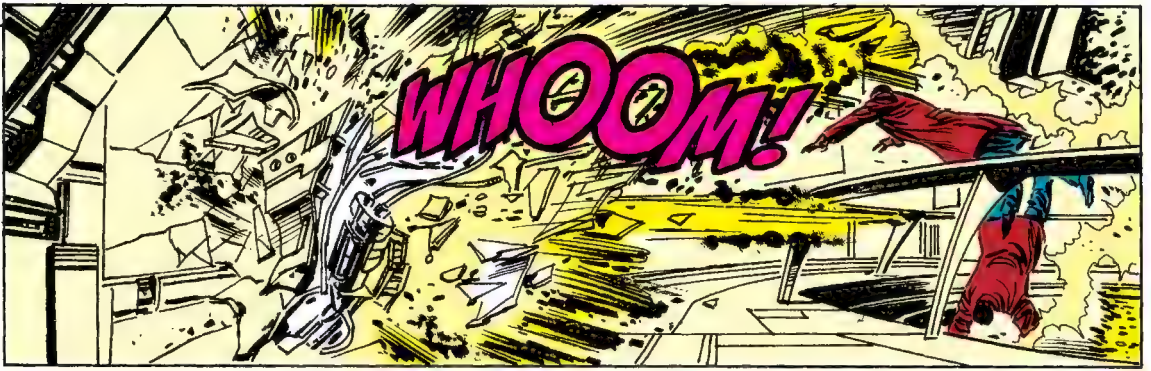




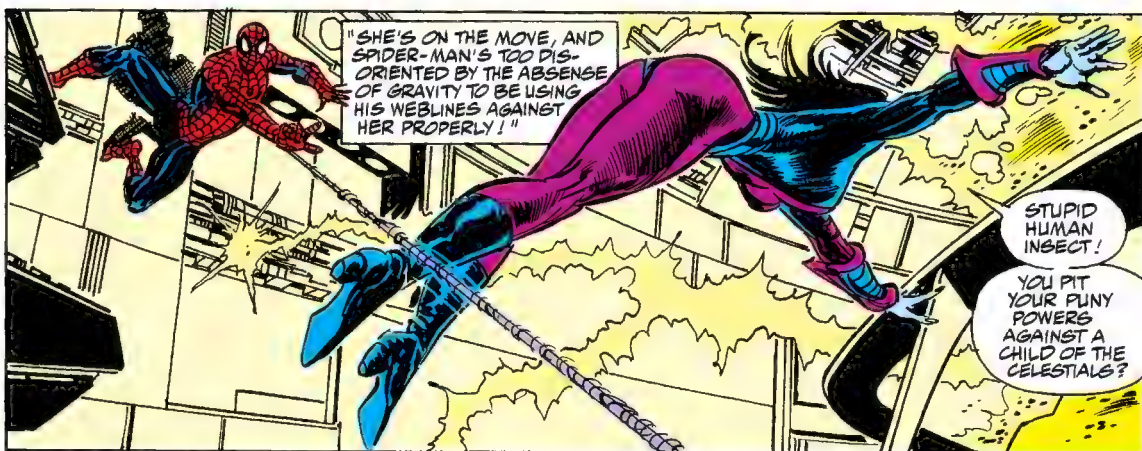
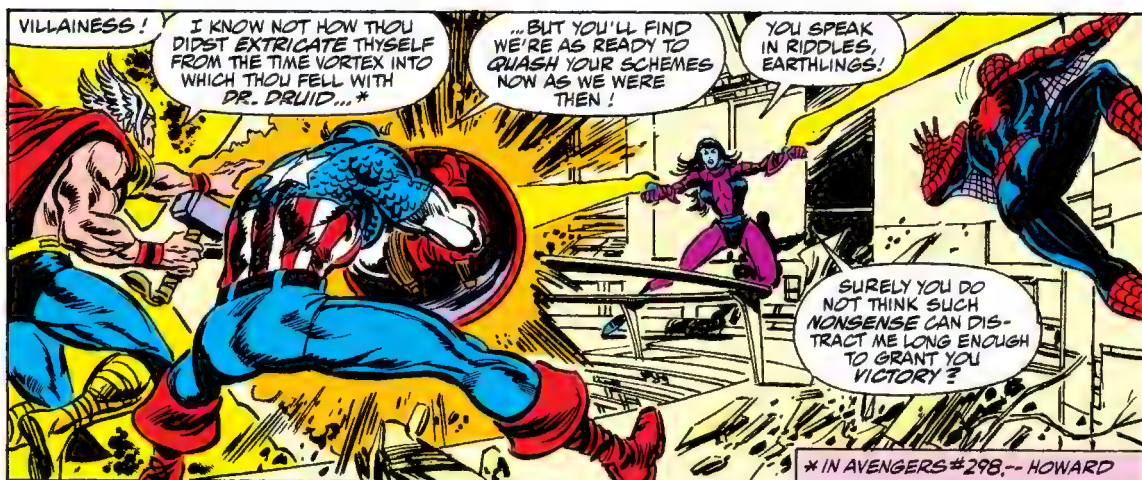




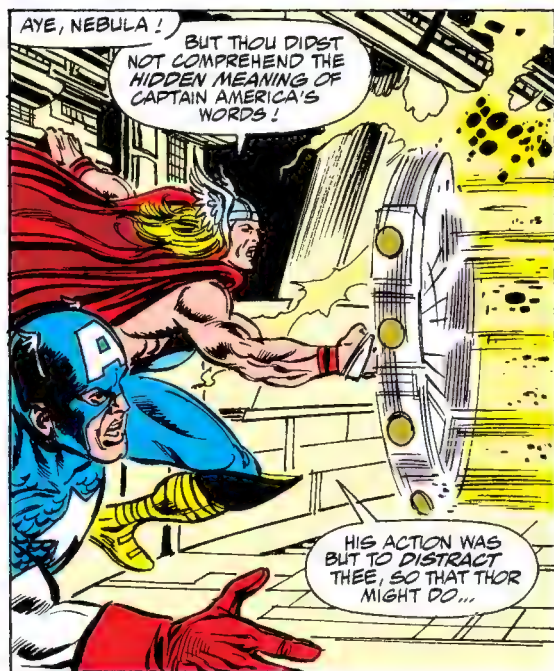
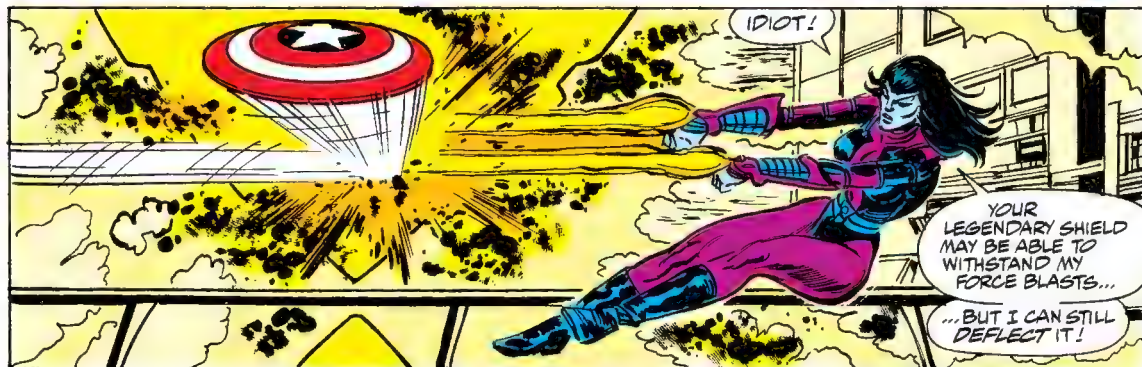
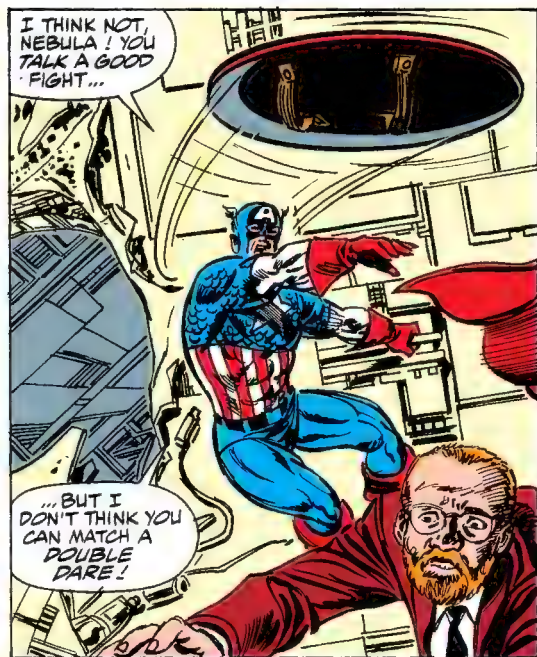




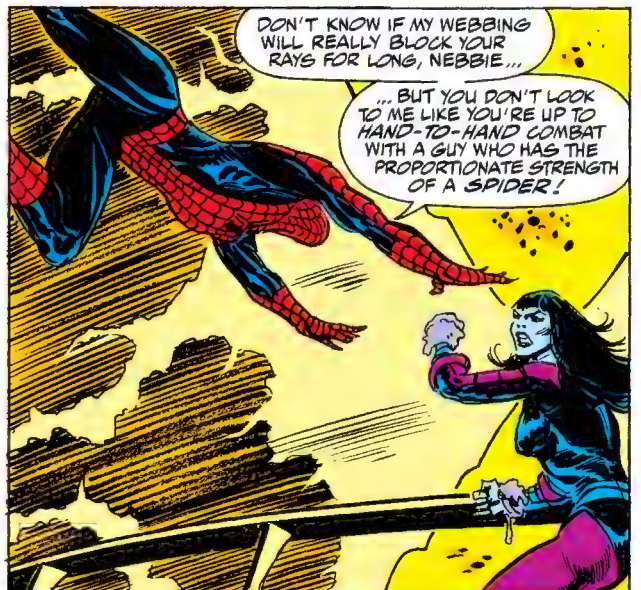
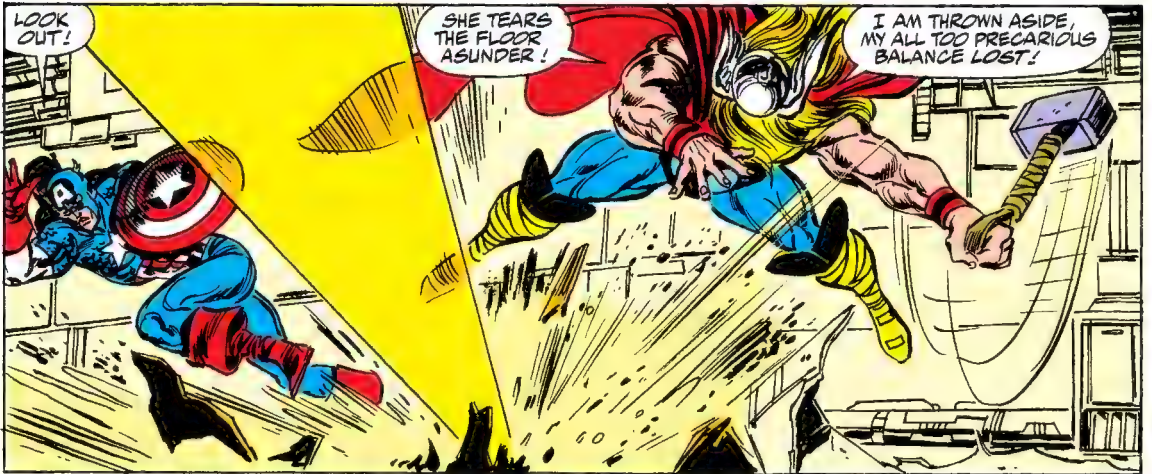
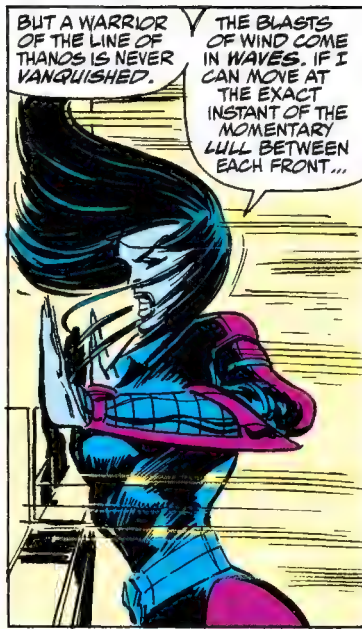
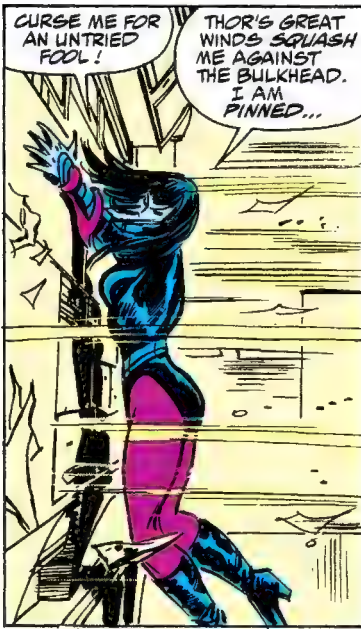




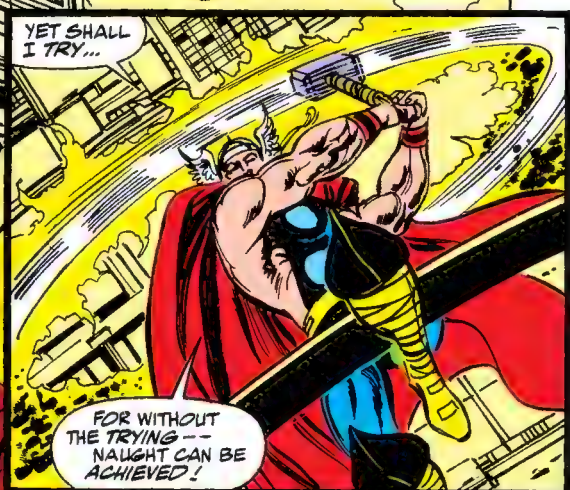
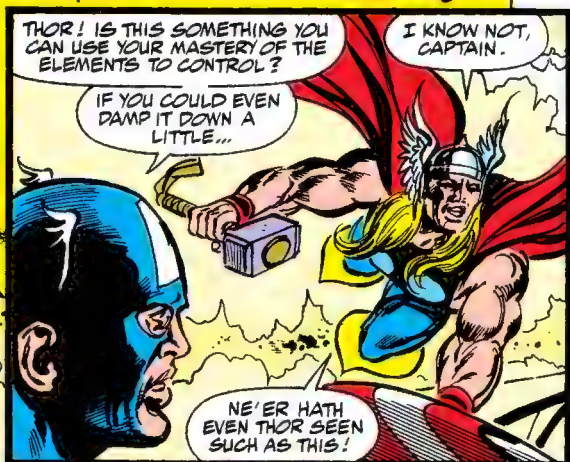
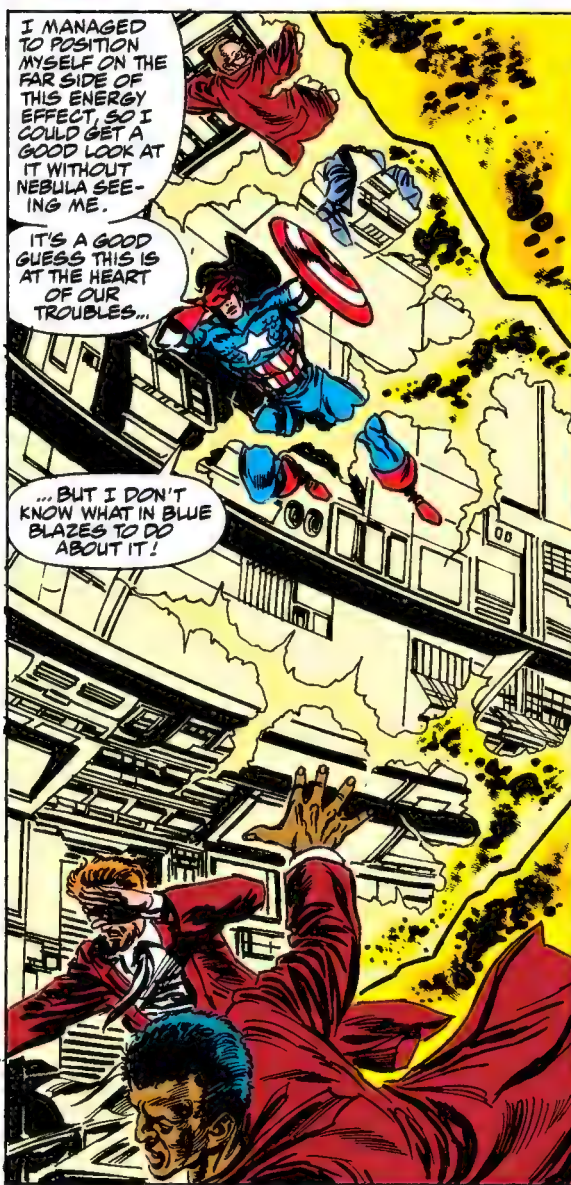
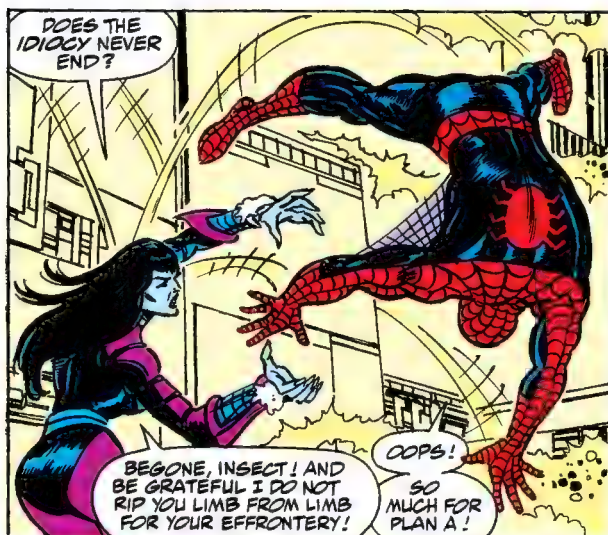




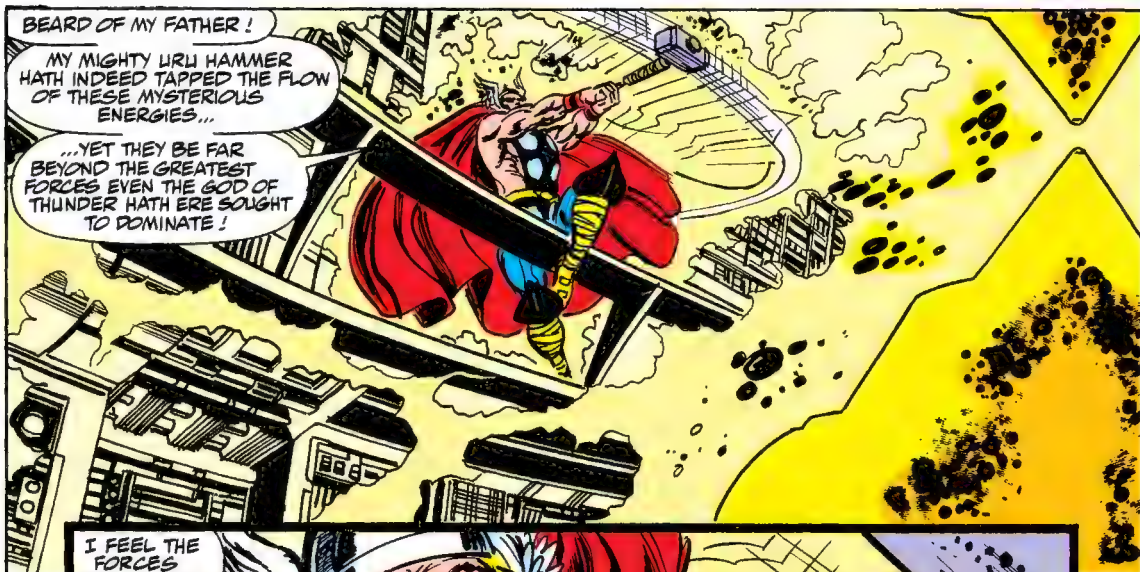












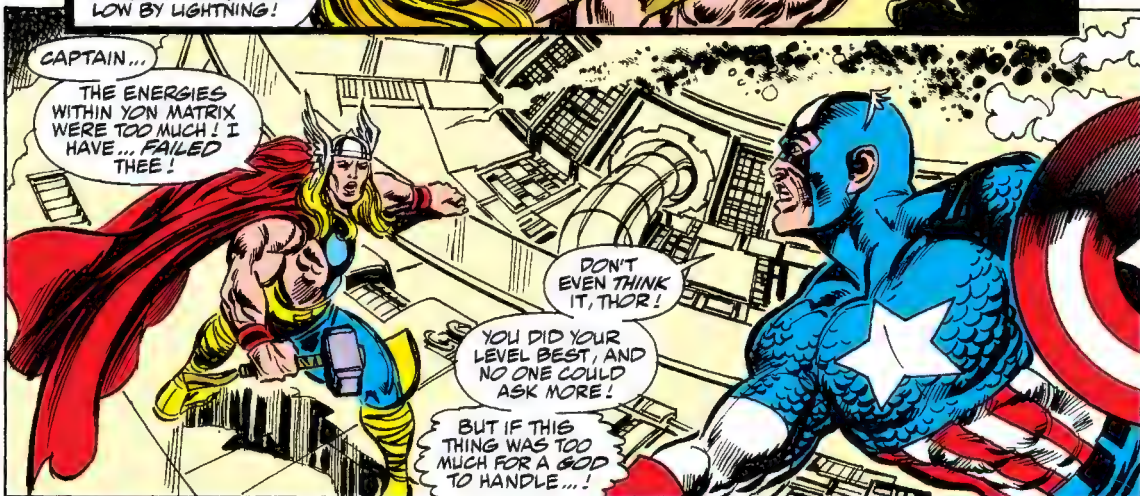
BEARD OF MY FATHER !

MY MIGHTY URU HAMMER  
HATH INDEED TAPPED THE FLOW  
OF THESE MYSTERIOUS  
ENERGIES...

...YET THEY BE FAR  
BEYOND THE GREATEST  
FORCES EVEN THE GOD OF  
THUNDER HATH ERE SOUGHT  
TO DOMINATE !

I FEEL THE  
FORCES  
WELLING UP  
WITHIN ME !

VERILY, UNLESS  
I BREAK MY HOLD ON  
THEM, I FEAR I SHALL  
EXPLODE AS WOULD  
A MIGHTY OAK STRUCK  
LOW BY LIGHTNING !



CAPTAIN...

THE ENERGIES  
WITHIN YON MATRIX  
WERE TOO MUCH ! I  
HAVE ... FAILED  
THEE !

DON'T  
EVEN THINK  
IT, THOR !

YOU DID YOUR  
LEVEL BEST, AND  
NO ONE COULD  
ASK MORE !

BUT IF THIS  
THING WAS TOO  
MUCH FOR A GOD  
TO HANDLE ... !



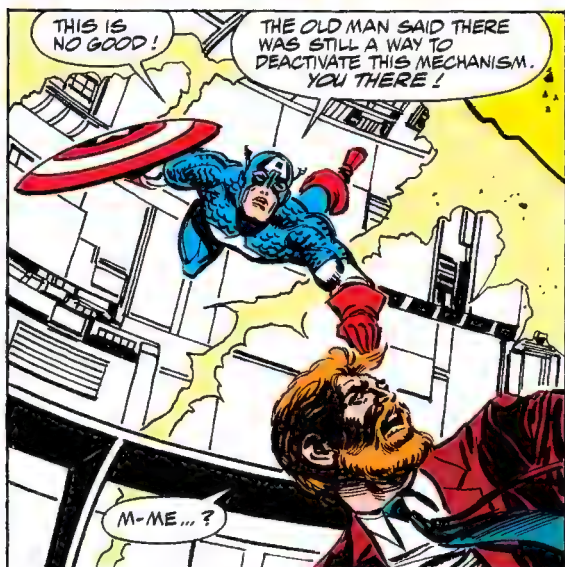
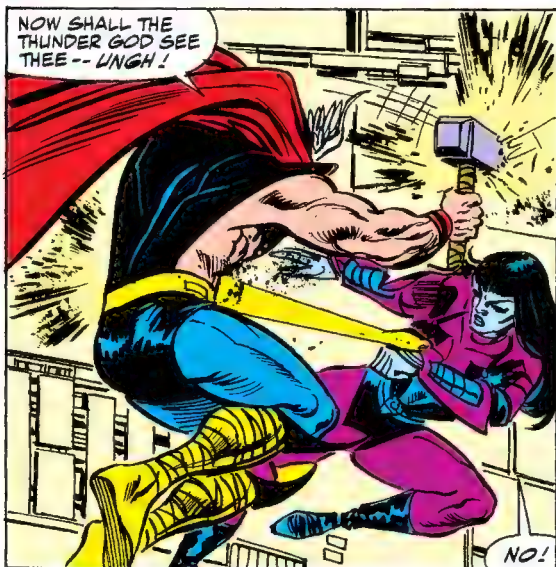
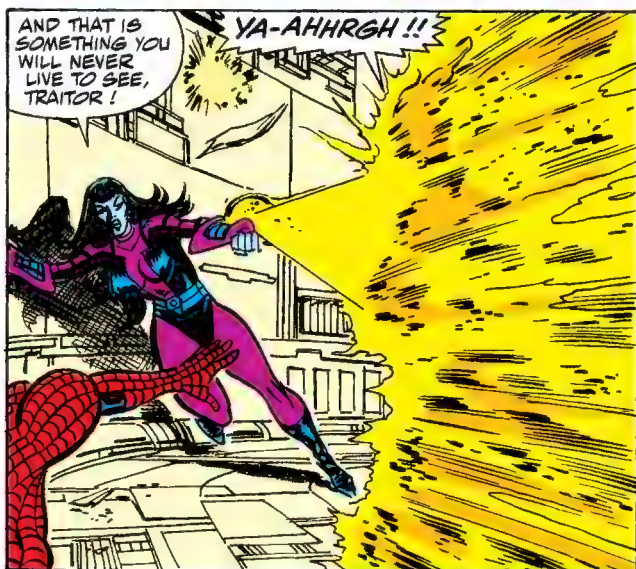
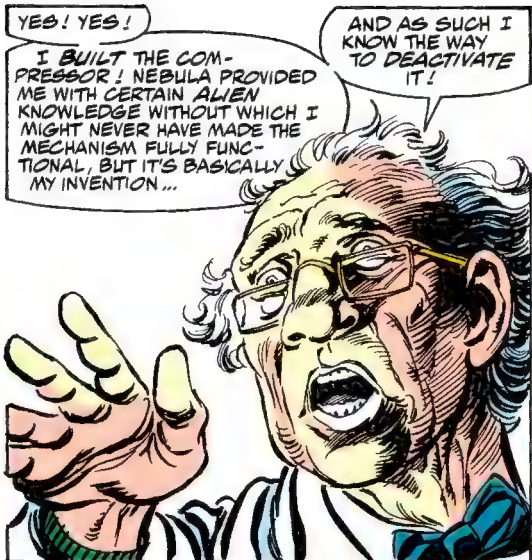
SSST !

SPIDER-MAN !  
YOU'VE GOT TO GET  
TO YOUR TEAM-  
MATES... TELL THEM  
THEY'RE GOING AT  
THIS ALL WRONG !

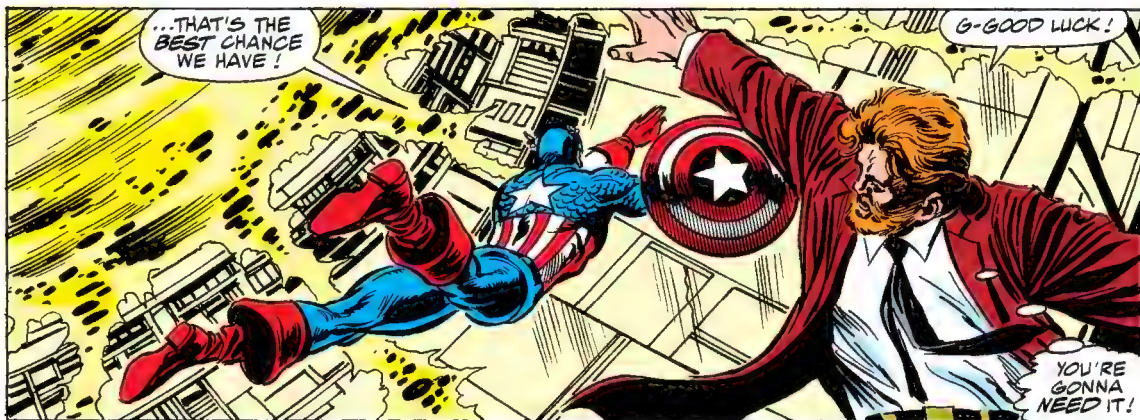
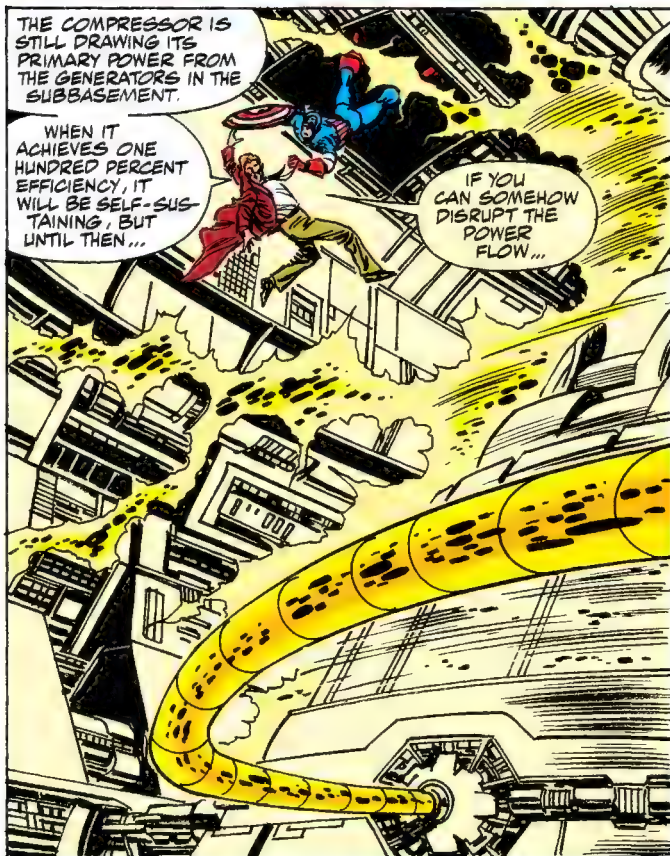
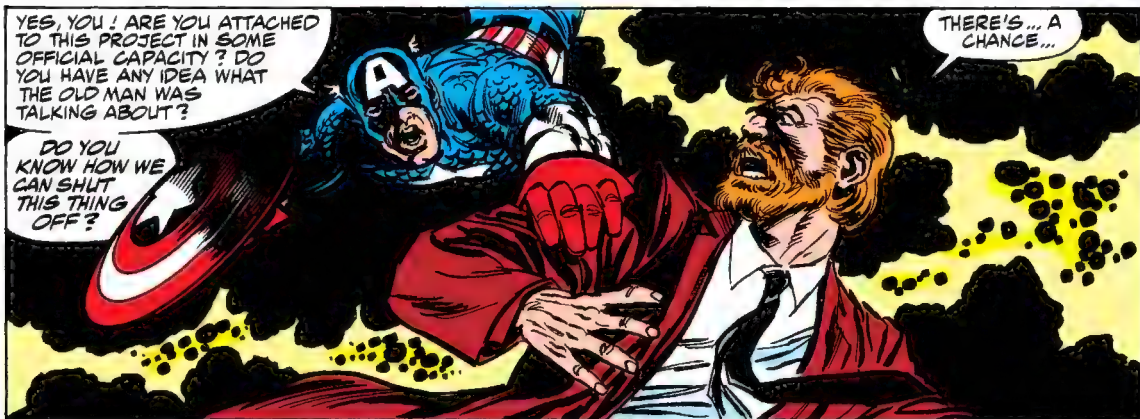
WELL, TEAMMATES  
THEY'RE NOT...

...BUT SAY ON,  
OLD TIMER. YOU'VE  
GOT AN ANSWER TO  
THIS LUNACY ?

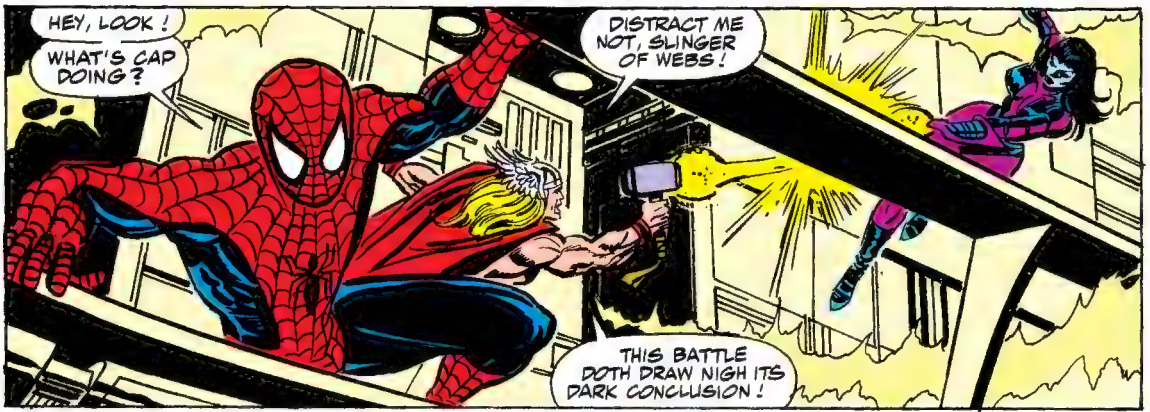








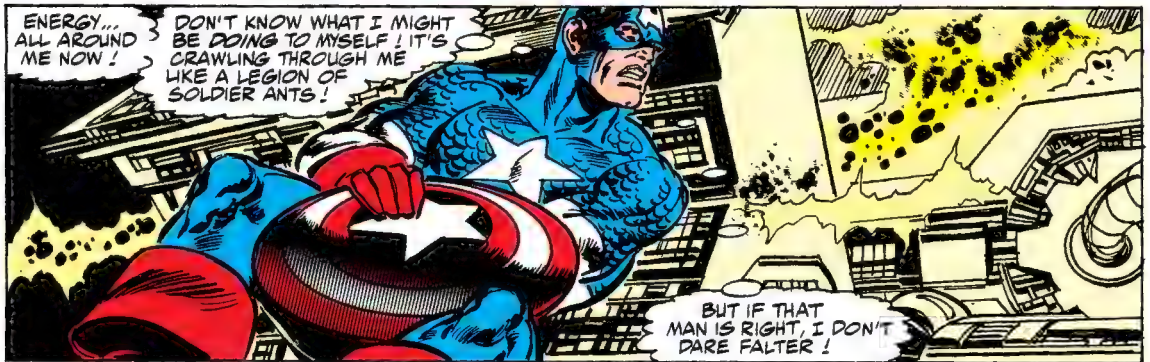




HEY, LOOK!  
WHAT'S CAP  
DOING?

DISTRACT ME  
NOT, SLINGER  
OF WEBS!

THIS BATTLE  
DOETH DRAW NIGH ITS  
DARK CONCLUSION!



ENERGY...  
ALL AROUND  
ME NOW!

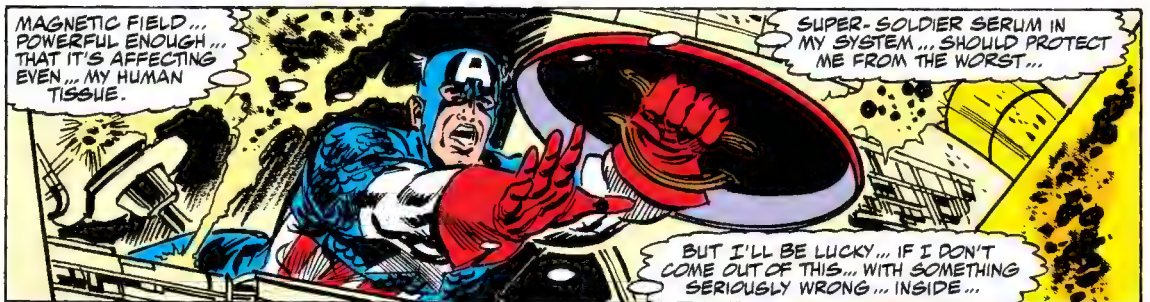
DON'T KNOW WHAT I MIGHT  
BE DOING TO MYSELF! IT'S  
CRAWLING THROUGH ME  
LIKE A LEGION OF  
SOLDIER ANTS!

BUT IF THAT  
MAN IS RIGHT, I DON'T  
DARE FALTER!



NO IDEA HOW MUCH MORE TIME  
THERE IS BEFORE THIS MECHANISM  
REACHES ITS FULL CAPACITY.

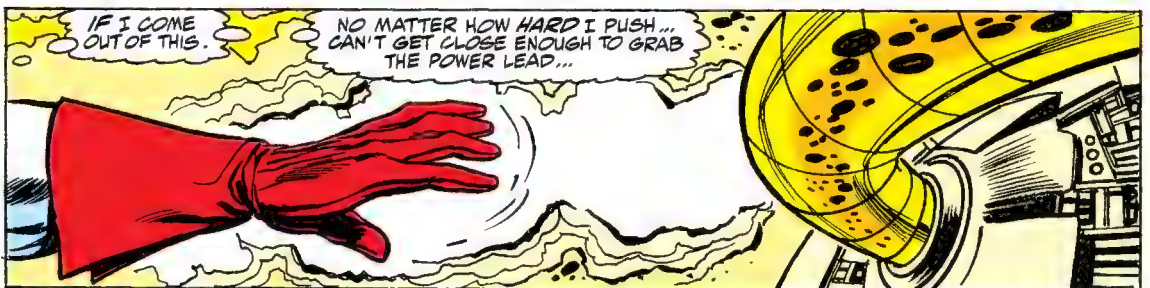
DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT!  
IF IT'S DONE ALL THIS AND IT'S NOT EVEN  
OPERATING PROPERLY YET...!!



MAGNETIC FIELD...  
POWERFUL ENOUGH...  
THAT IT'S AFFECTING  
EVEN... MY HUMAN  
TISSUE.

SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM IN  
MY SYSTEM... SHOULD PROTECT  
ME FROM THE WORST...

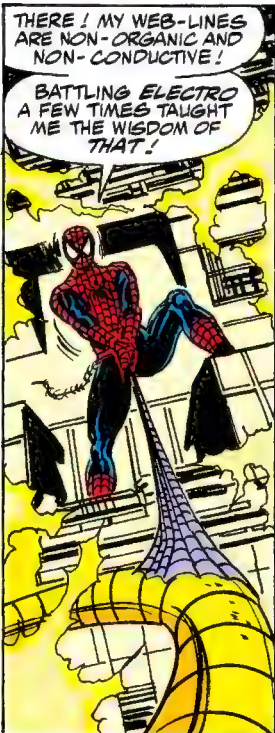
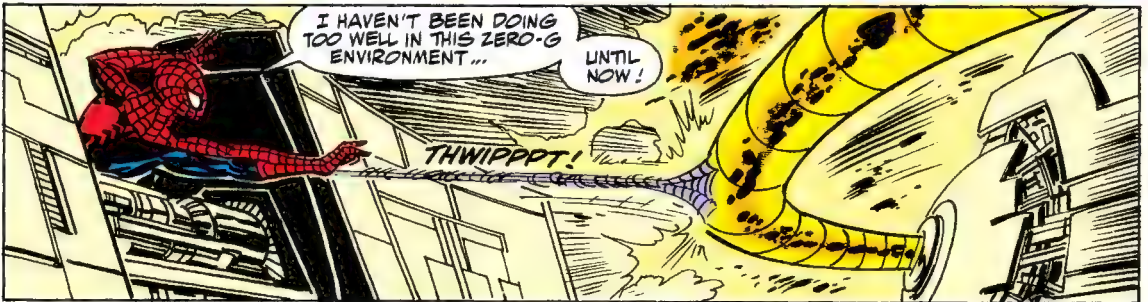
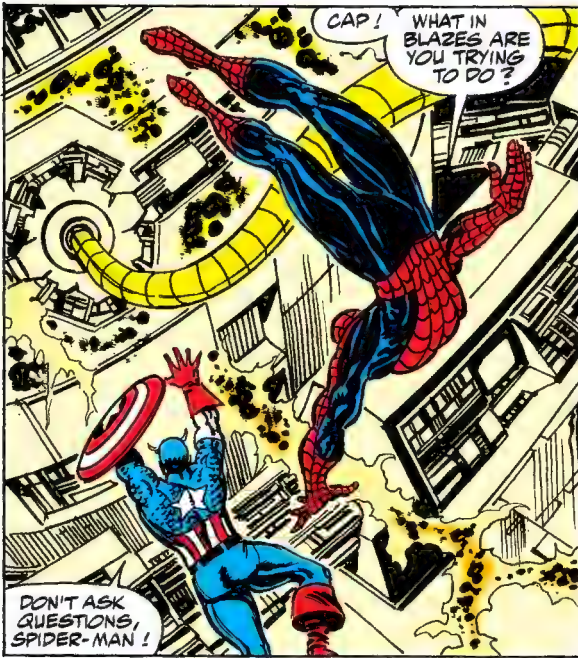
BUT I'LL BE LUCKY... IF I DON'T  
COME OUT OF THIS... WITH SOMETHING  
SERIOUSLY WRONG... INSIDE...



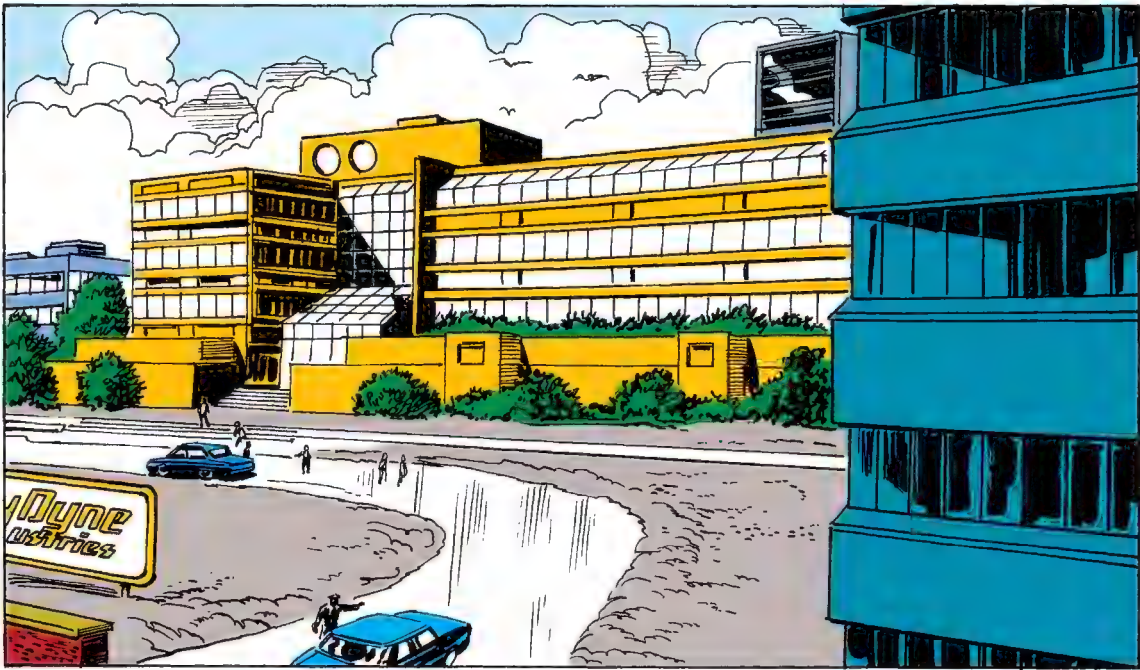
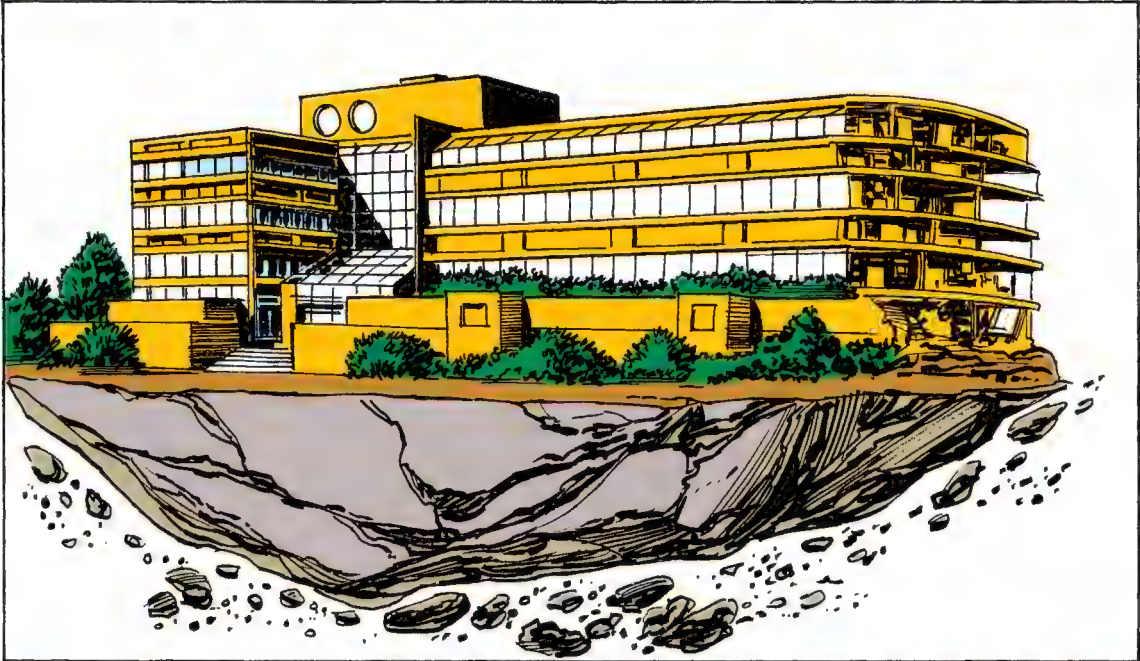
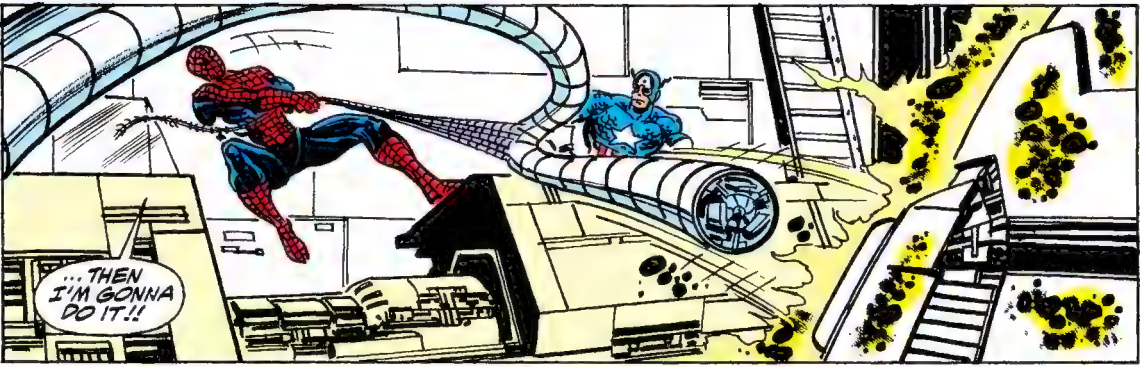
IF I COME  
OUT OF THIS.

NO MATTER HOW HARD I PUSH...  
CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO GRAB  
THE POWER LEAD...

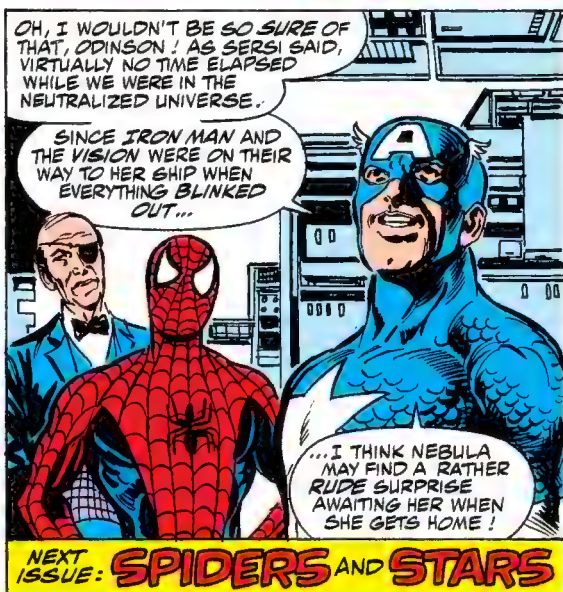
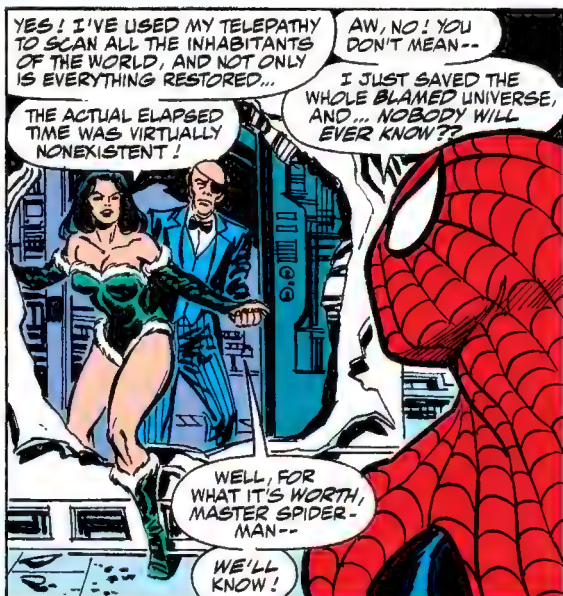
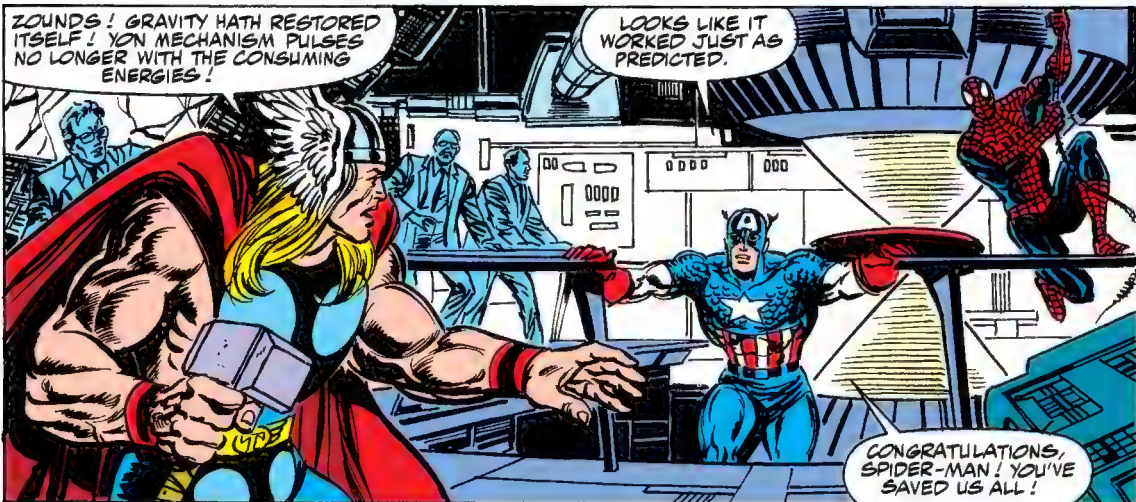












NEXT ISSUE: **SPIDERS AND STARS**



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# AVENGERS

GUEST-STARRING  
the **AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN!**



THE AVENGERS  
vs.  
THE HORDES OF  
**NEBULA**

FOR THE  
LIFE OF  
**STARFOX!**

KUANYI PALMER



Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

# SPIDERS *and* STARS

BEHIND AND BELOW THE BLUE-GREEN DISK OF THE EARTH DROPS SWIFTLY AWAY AS THE POWERFUL ENGINES OF AN AVENGERS QUIN-JET DRIVE IT UP AND OUT OF THE THIN FILM OF LIFE-SUPPORTING ATMOSPHERE.

AT THE HELM, TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST UNION OF SUPERHEROES, THE SYNTHETOID KNOWN ONLY AS THE VISION...

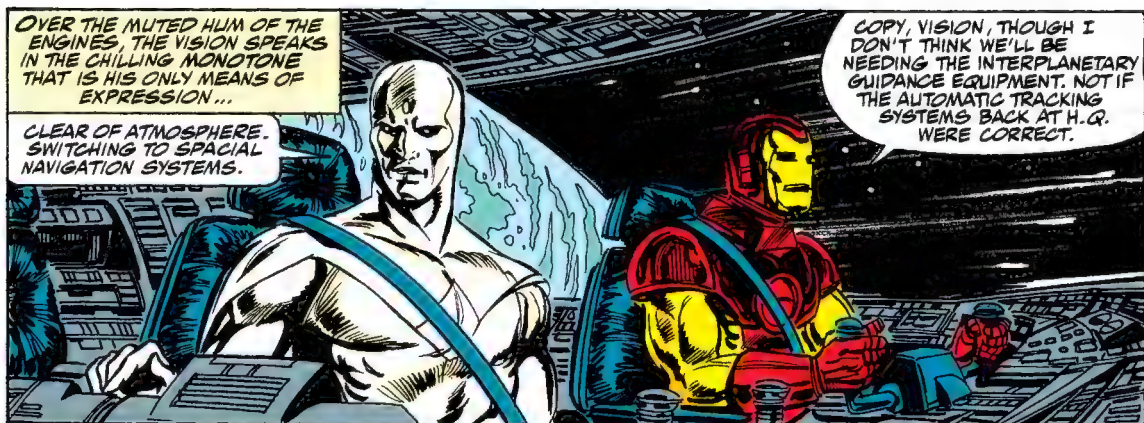
...AND THE ARMORED AVENGER WHOSE BRIGHT HUED ACCOUTERMENTS BELIE HIS MORE STOIC NOMENCLATURE: IRON MAN.

THE GRIM SET OF THEIR ARTIFICIAL FACES REVEALS THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE MISSION THAT SENDS THEM STREAKING STARWARD THIS DAY.

YET EVEN THESE SEASONED WARRIORS CANNOT BEGIN TO GUESS THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENTS THAT WILL UNFOLD BEFORE THEM.

PAUL & TOM ~ Artists Extraordinaire  
RYAN & PALMER ~ Dramatist of Talent Rare  
JOHN BYRNE ~ Letterer of Unequaled Flair  
BILL OAKLEY ~ Colorist Beyond Compare  
CHRISTIE SCHEELE ~ Editor Both True and Fair  
HOWARD MACKIE ~ Office Down the Hall Somewhere  
TOM DEFALCO ~

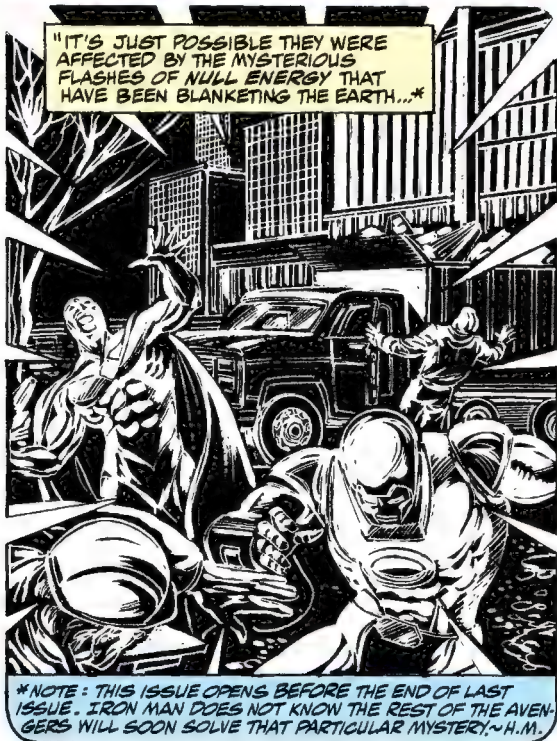




OVER THE MUTED HUM OF THE ENGINES, THE VISION SPEAKS IN THE CHILLING MONOTONE THAT IS HIS ONLY MEANS OF EXPRESSION...

CLEAR OF ATMOSPHERE. SWITCHING TO SPACIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS.

COPY, VISION, THOUGH I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE NEEDING THE INTERPLANETARY GUIDANCE EQUIPMENT. NOT IF THE AUTOMATIC TRACKING SYSTEMS BACK AT H.Q. WERE CORRECT.



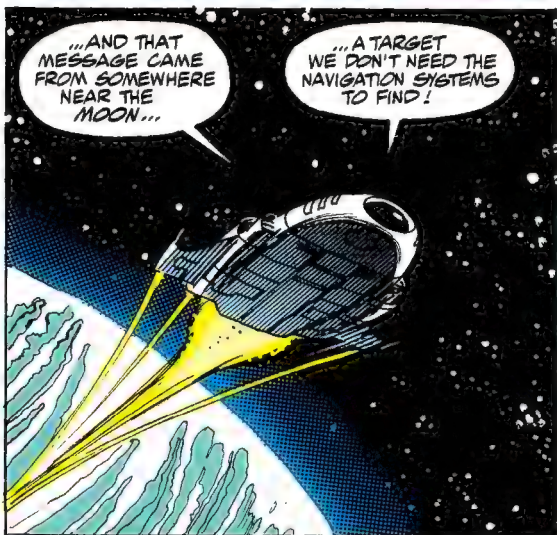
"IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THEY WERE AFFECTED BY THE MYSTERIOUS FLASHES OF NULL ENERGY THAT HAVE BEEN BLANKETING THE EARTH..."

\*NOTE: THIS ISSUE OPENS BEFORE THE END OF LAST ISSUE. IRON MAN DOES NOT KNOW THE REST OF THE AVENGERS WILL SOON SOLVE THAT PARTICULAR MYSTERY.~H.M.



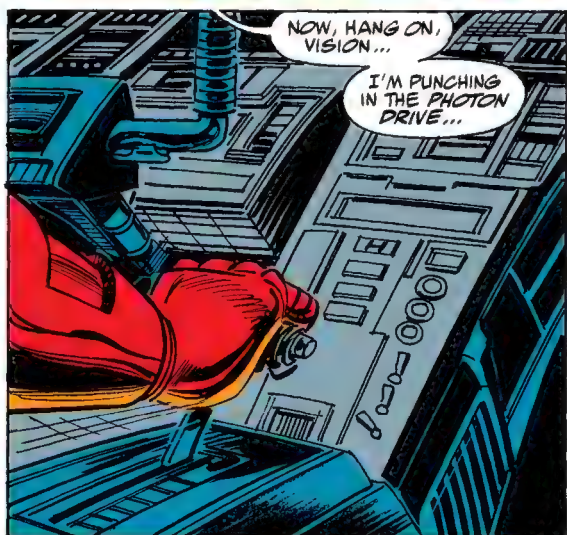
"...BUT IF THEY WEREN'T WE KNOW STARFOX IS OUT THERE, AND HE WAS TRYING TO SEND US SOME KIND OF ALERT BEFORE HE WAS ABRUPTLY CUT OFF..."

\*IN ISSUE #314. --HOWARD AGAIN



"...AND THAT MESSAGE CAME FROM SOMEWHERE NEAR THE MOON..."

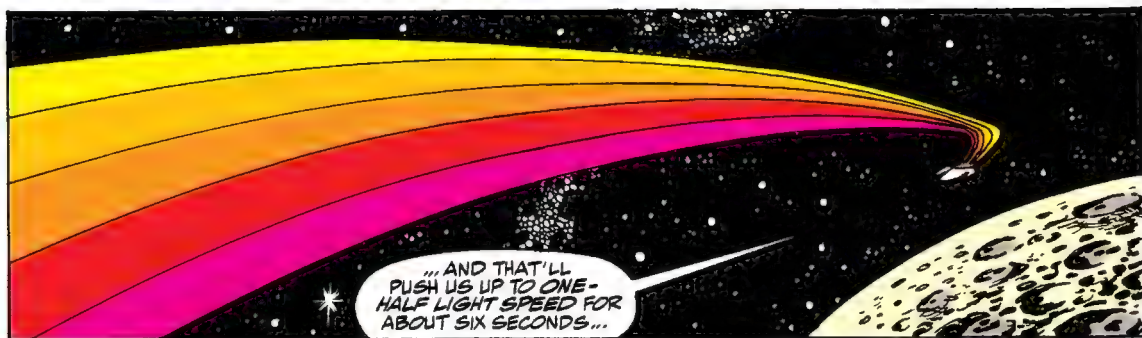
"...A TARGET WE DON'T NEED THE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS TO FIND!"



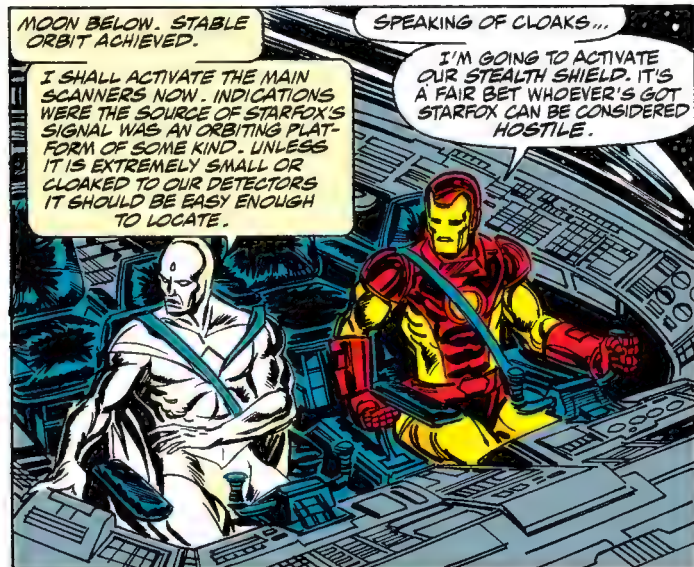
NOW, HANG ON, VISION...

I'M PUNCHING IN THE PHOTON DRIVE...





...AND THAT'LL  
PUSH US UP TO ONE-  
HALF LIGHT SPEED FOR  
ABOUT SIX SECONDS...



MOON BELOW. STABLE  
ORBIT ACHIEVED.

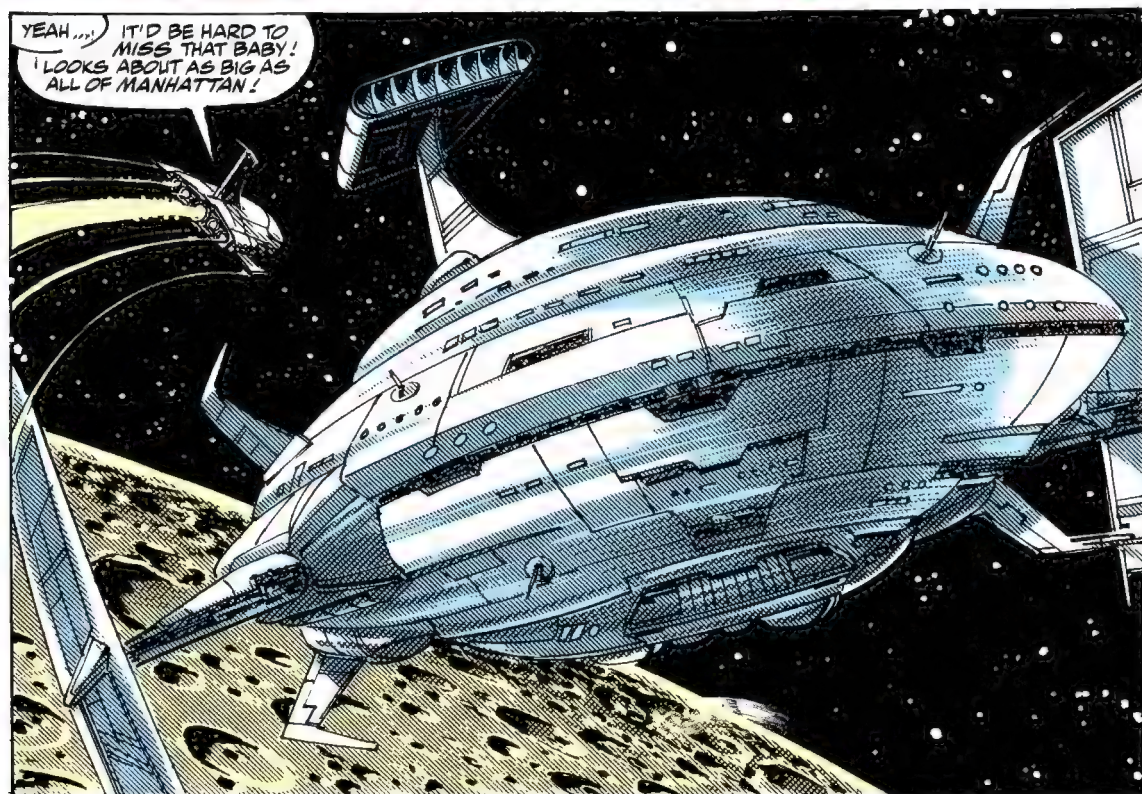
SPEAKING OF CLOAKS...

I SHALL ACTIVATE THE MAIN  
SCANNERS NOW. INDICATIONS  
WERE THE SOURCE OF STARFOX'S  
SIGNAL WAS AN ORBITING PLAT-  
FORM OF SOME KIND. UNLESS  
IT IS EXTREMELY SMALL OR  
CLOAKED TO OUR DETECTORS  
IT SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH  
TO LOCATE.

I'M GOING TO ACTIVATE  
OUR STEALTH SHIELD. IT'S  
A FAIR BET WHOEVER'S GOT  
STARFOX CAN BE CONSIDERED  
HOSTILE.

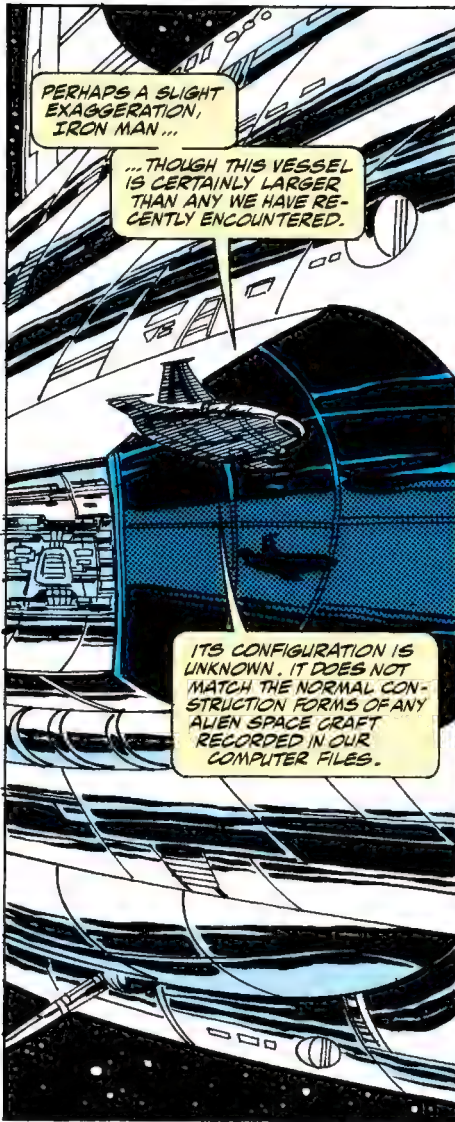
I HAVE A  
CONTACT,  
IRON MAN.

WHEN WE RISE  
ABOVE THE  
HORIZON WE  
SHOULD MAKE  
VISUAL CONTACT...



YEAH... IT'D BE HARD TO  
MISS THAT BABY!  
! LOOKS ABOUT AS BIG AS  
ALL OF MANHATTAN !

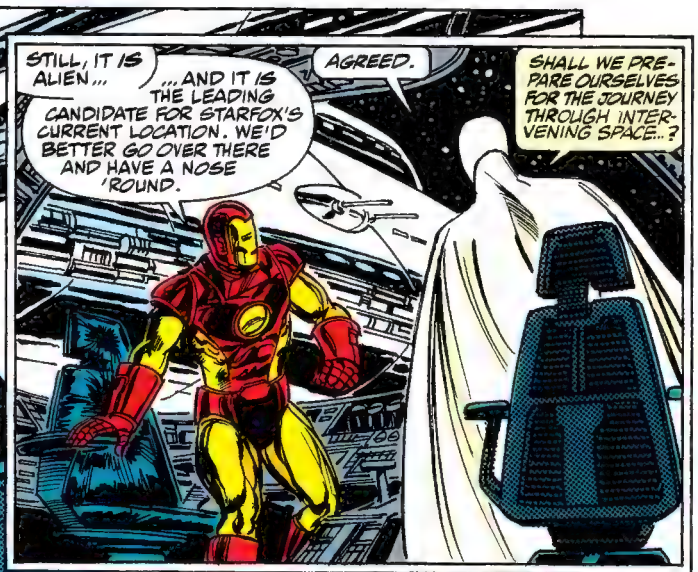




PERHAPS A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION, IRON MAN...

...THOUGH THIS VESSEL IS CERTAINLY LARGER THAN ANY WE HAVE RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED.

ITS CONFIGURATION IS UNKNOWN. IT DOES NOT MATCH THE NORMAL CONSTRUCTION FORMS OF ANY ALIEN SPACE CRAFT RECORDED IN OUR COMPUTER FILES.

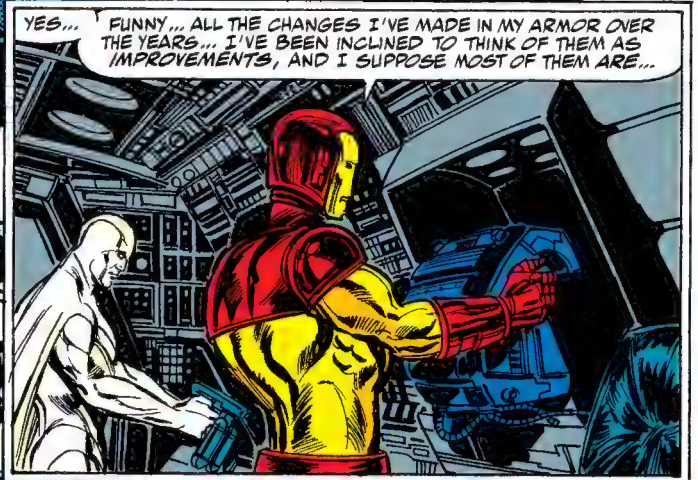


STILL, IT IS ALIEN...

...AND IT IS THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR STARFOX'S CURRENT LOCATION. WE'D BETTER GO OVER THERE AND HAVE A NOSE 'ROUND.

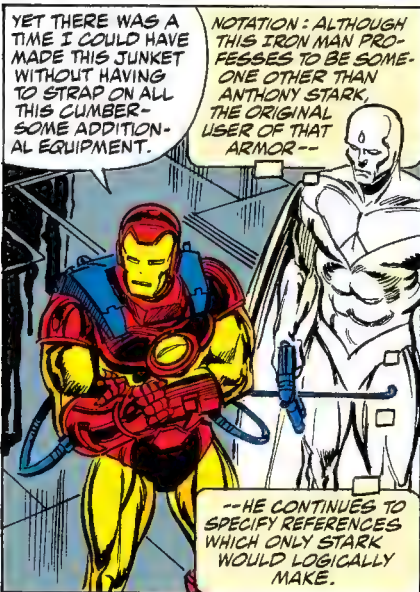
AGREED.

SHALL WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE JOURNEY THROUGH INTERVENING SPACE...?



YES...

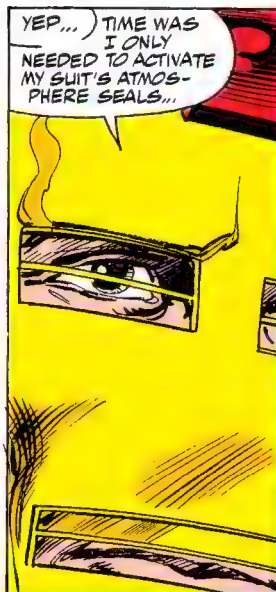
FUNNY... ALL THE CHANGES I'VE MADE IN MY ARMOR OVER THE YEARS... I'VE BEEN INCLINED TO THINK OF THEM AS IMPROVEMENTS, AND I SUPPOSE MOST OF THEM ARE...



YET THERE WAS A TIME I COULD HAVE MADE THIS JUNKET WITHOUT HAVING TO STRAP ON ALL THIS CUMBERSOME ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

NOTATION: ALTHOUGH THIS IRON MAN PROFFESSES TO BE SOMEONE OTHER THAN ANTHONY STARK, THE ORIGINAL USER OF THAT ARMOR--

--HE CONTINUES TO SPECIFY REFERENCES WHICH ONLY STARK WOULD LOGICALLY MAKE.



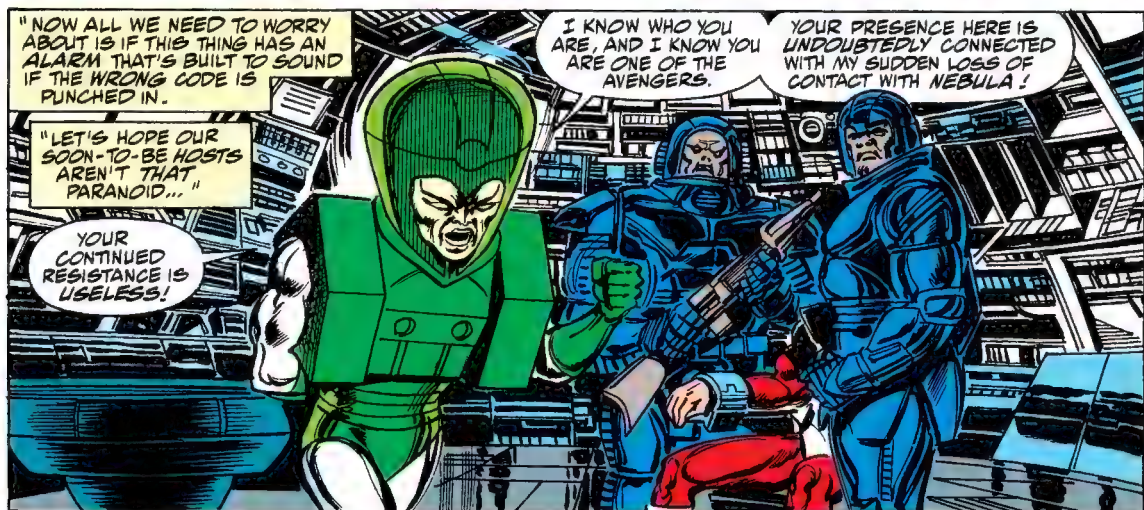
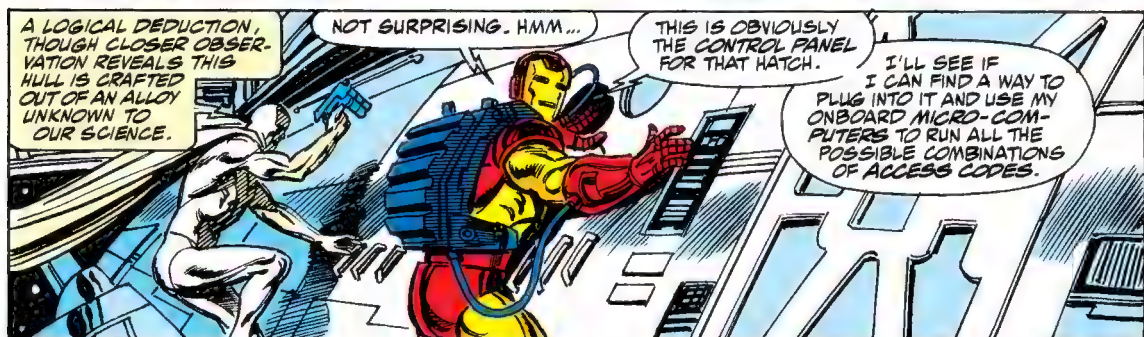
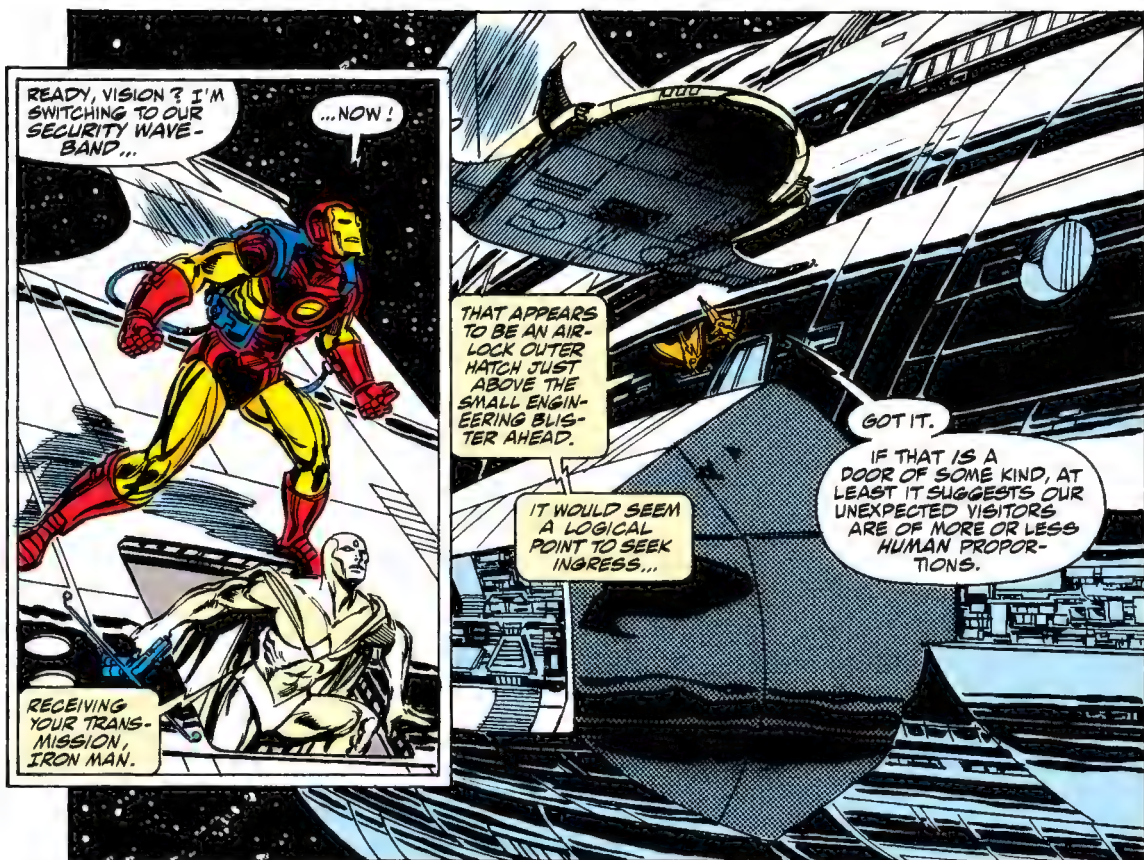
YEP... ) TIME WAS I ONLY NEEDED TO ACTIVATE MY SUIT'S ATMOSPHERE SEALS...



AND I'D BE AS READY TO GO AS I AM NOW!

STILL, TIME ENOUGH FOR RUMINATIONS ONCE WE'VE DEALT WITH WHATEVER LIES WITHIN THAT SHIP!

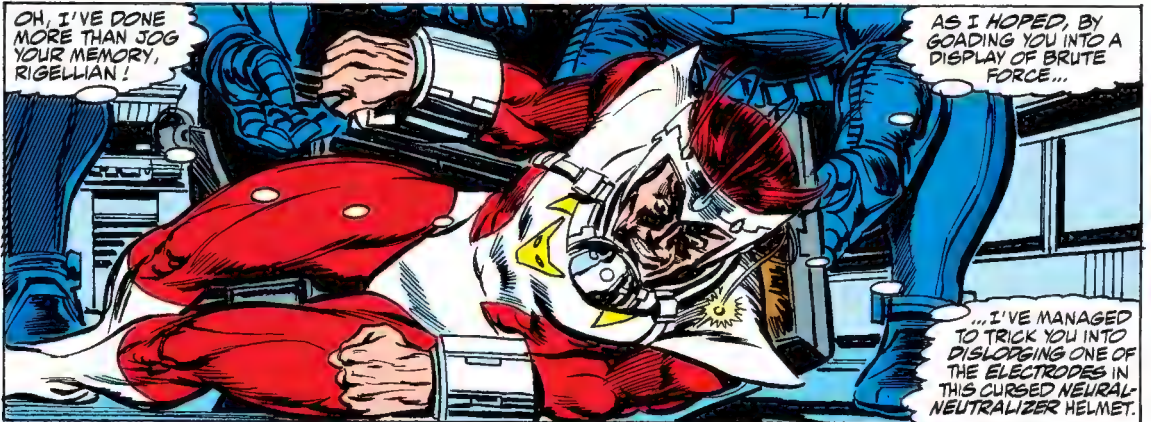




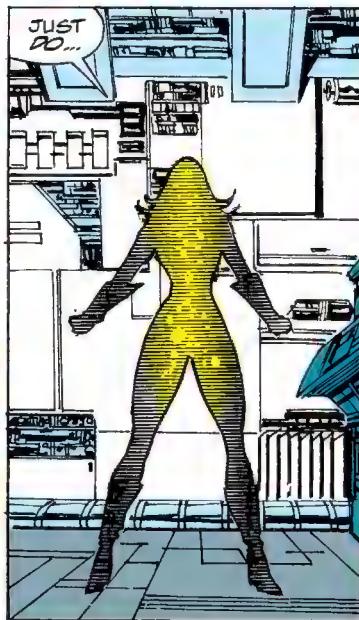
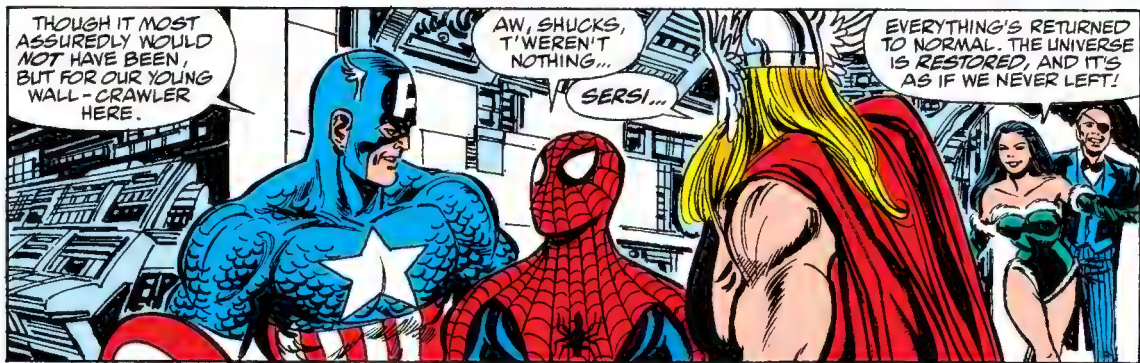
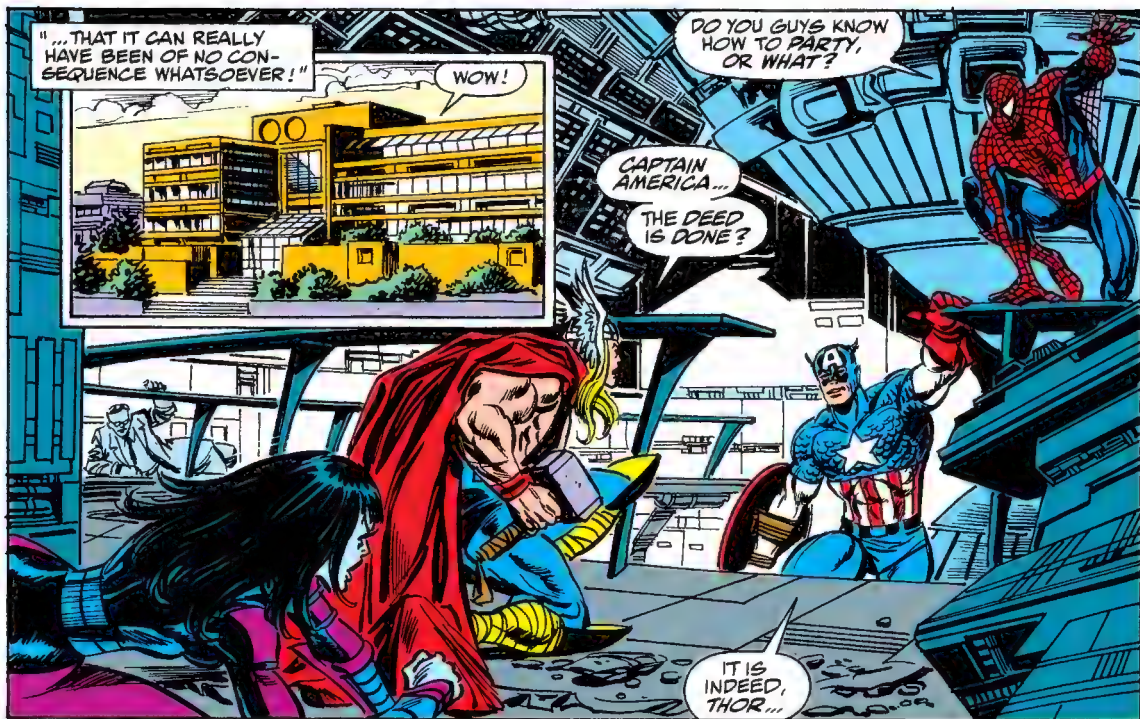




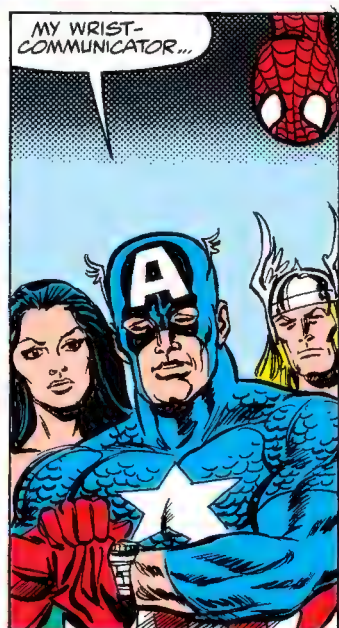
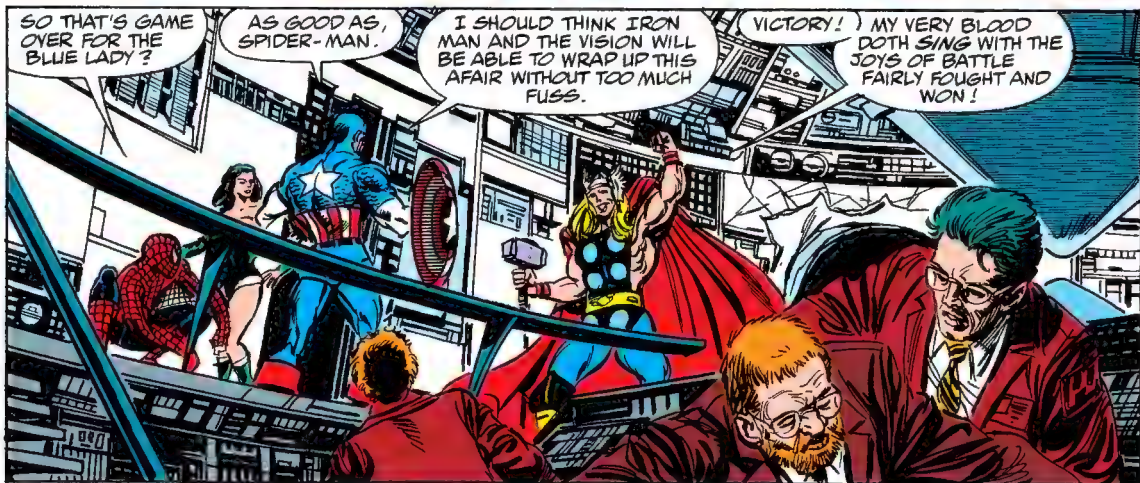




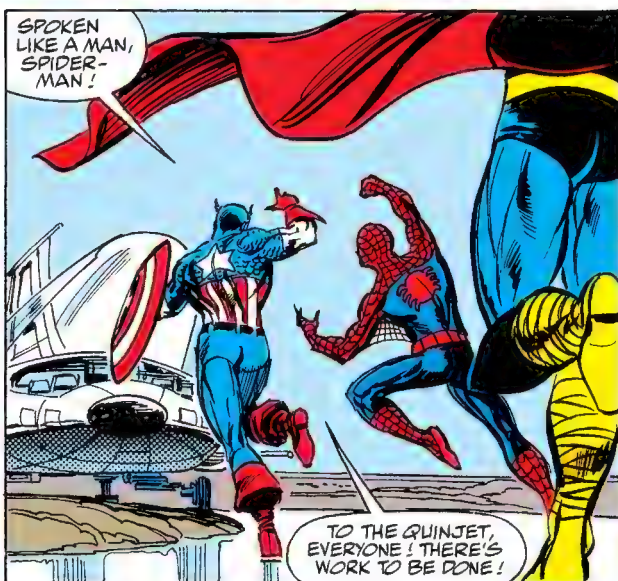
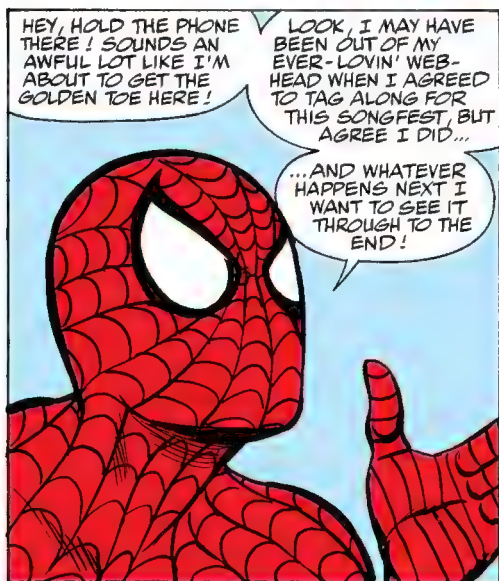
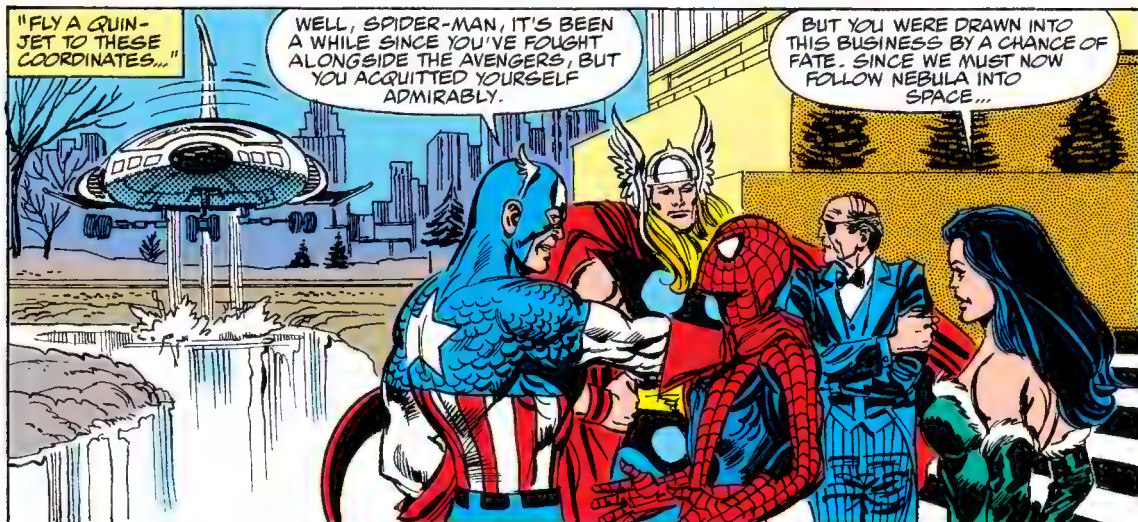
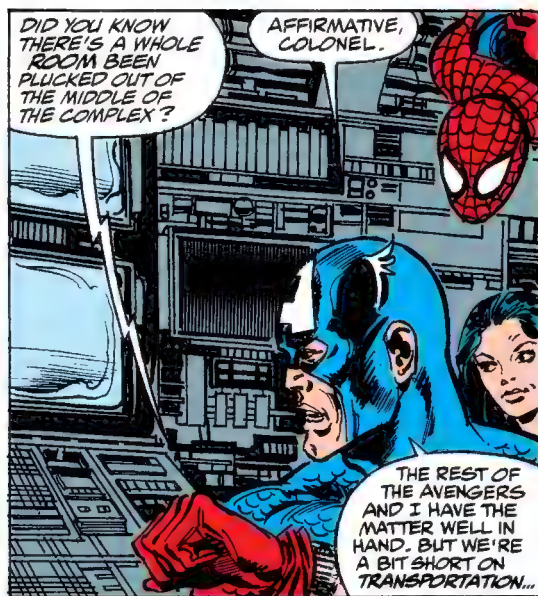
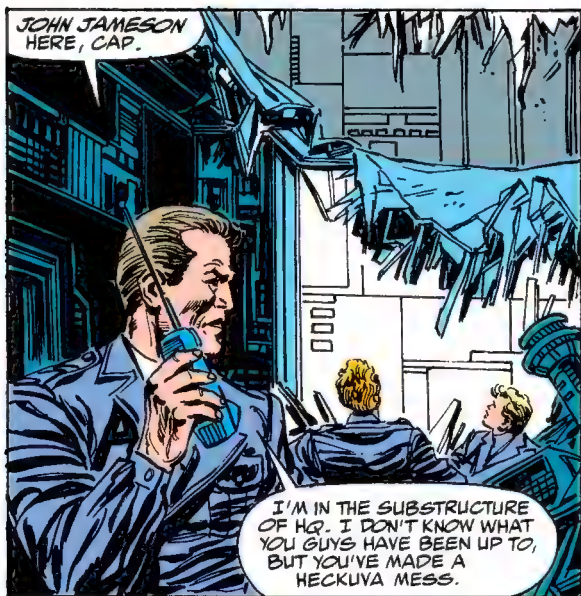




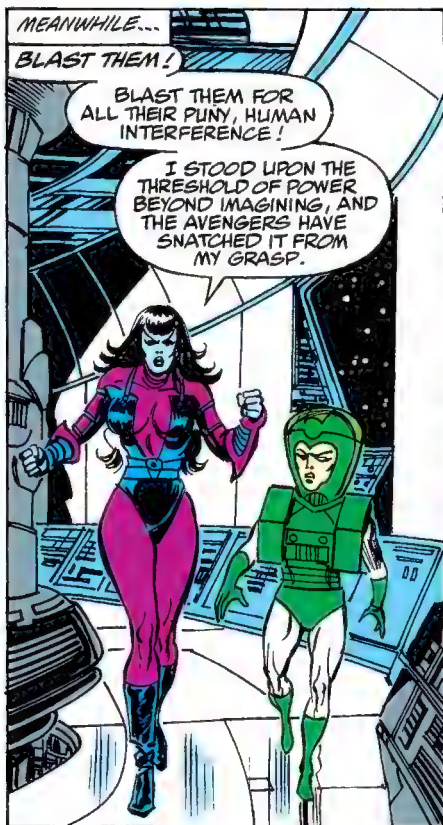




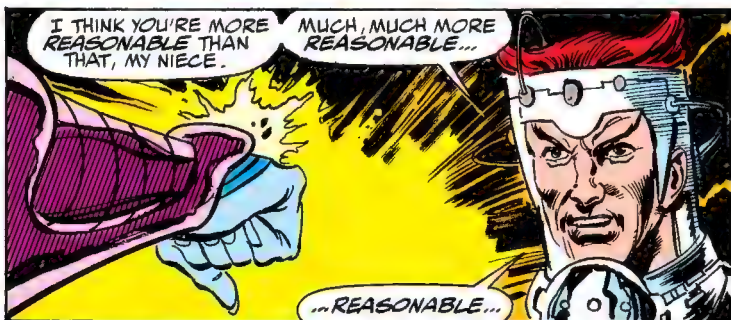
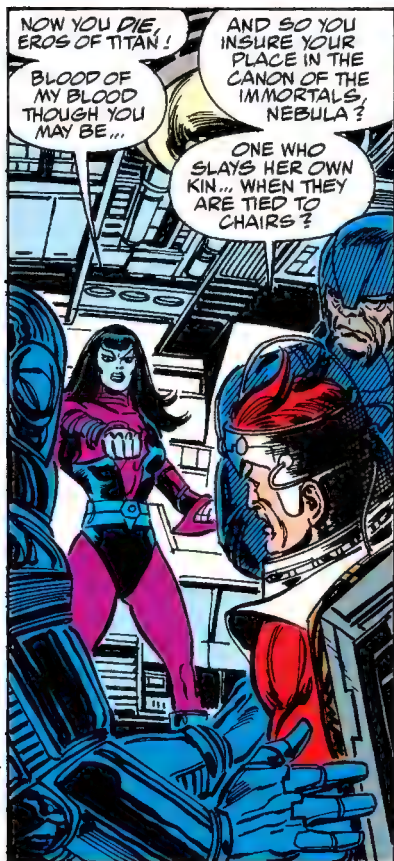
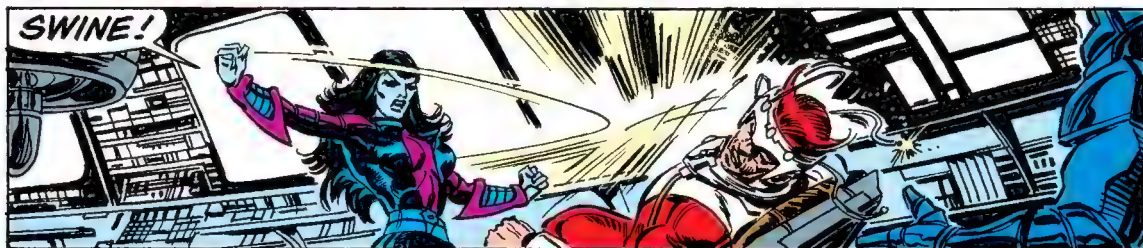




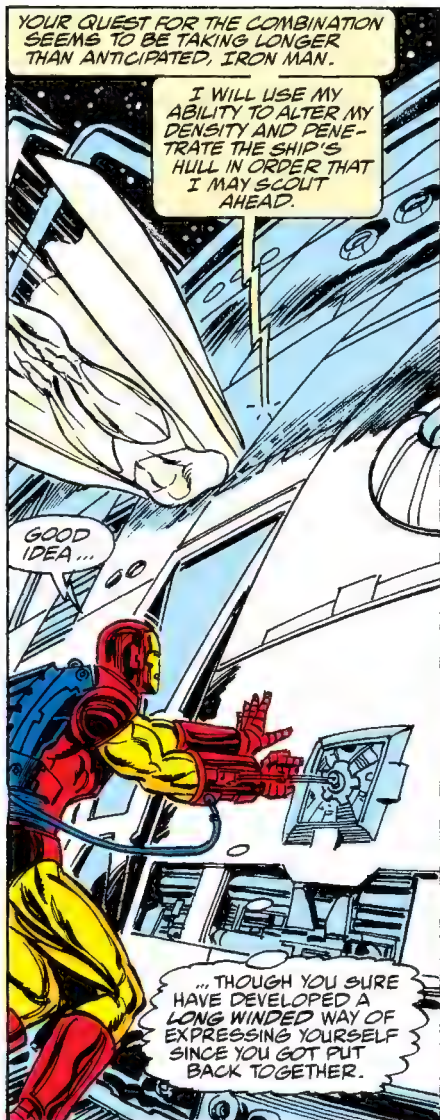












YOUR QUEST FOR THE COMBINATION SEEMS TO BE TAKING LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED, IRON MAN.

I WILL USE MY ABILITY TO ALTER MY DENSITY AND PENETRATE THE SHIP'S HULL IN ORDER THAT I MAY SCOUT AHEAD.

GOOD IDEA...

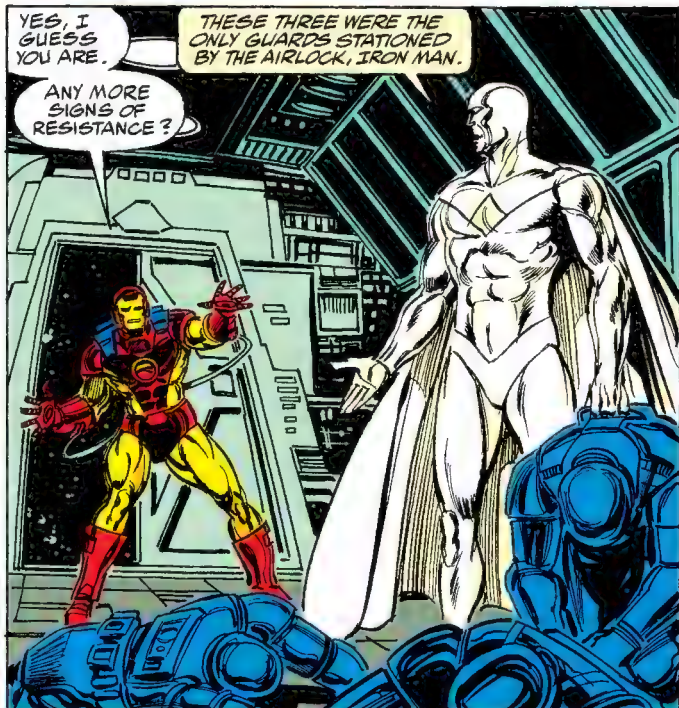
...THOUGH YOU SURE HAVE DEVELOPED A LONG WINDED WAY OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF SINCE YOU GOT PUT BACK TOGETHER.



WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH SOME CHANGES IN THE YEARS SINCE WE FORMED THE AVENGERS, BUT NONE QUITE SO MUCH AS YOU, MY ANDROID FRIEND.

WOULD WE ANY OF US HAVE BELIEVED A WORD OF IT, IF ANYONE HAD TOLD US YOUR FUTURE ON THAT DAY WE FIRST ENCOUNTERED YOU?

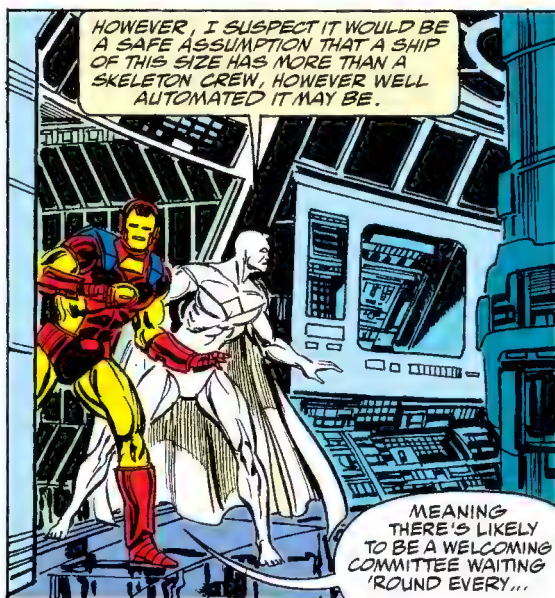
VISION, I'M IN. ARE YOU...



YES, I GUESS YOU ARE.

THESE THREE WERE THE ONLY GUARDS STATIONED BY THE AIRLOCK, IRON MAN.

ANY MORE SIGNS OF RESISTANCE?



HOWEVER, I SUSPECT IT WOULD BE A SAFE ASSUMPTION THAT A SHIP OF THIS SIZE HAS MORE THAN A SKELETON CREW, HOWEVER WELL AUTOMATED IT MAY BE.

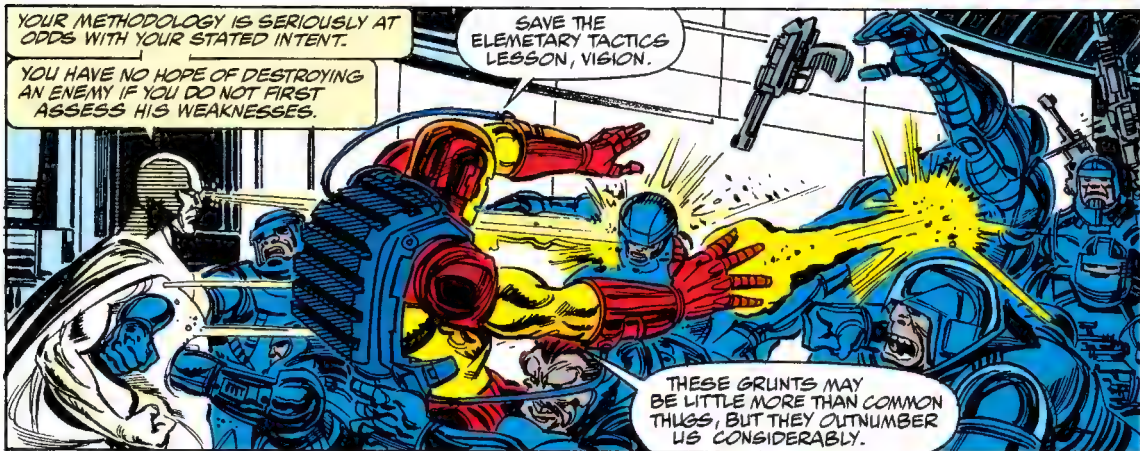
MEANING THERE'S LIKELY TO BE A WELCOMING COMMITTEE WAITING 'ROUND EVERY...



...CORNER...

INTRUDERS! DESTROY THEM!!





YOUR METHODOLOGY IS SERIOUSLY AT ODDS WITH YOUR STATED INTENT.

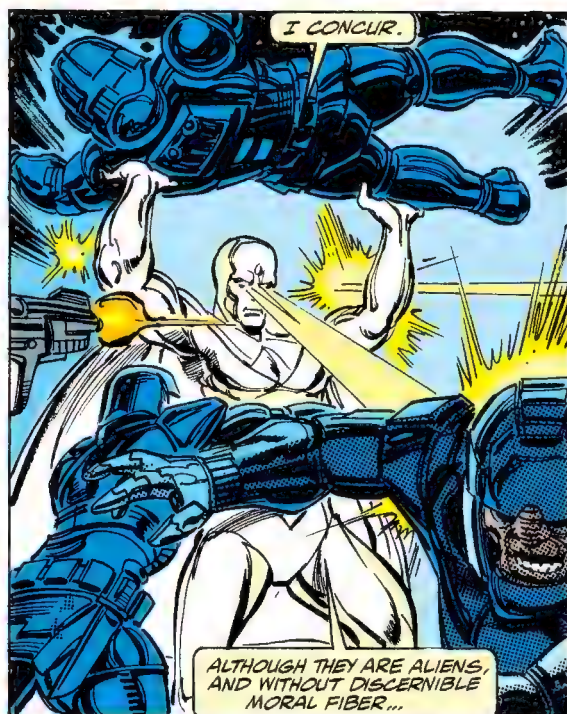
YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF DESTROYING AN ENEMY IF YOU DO NOT FIRST ASSESS HIS WEAKNESSES.

SAVE THE ELEMETARY TACTICS LESSON, VISION.

THESE GRUNTS MAY BE LITTLE MORE THAN COMMON THUGS, BUT THEY OUTNUMBER US CONSIDERABLY.

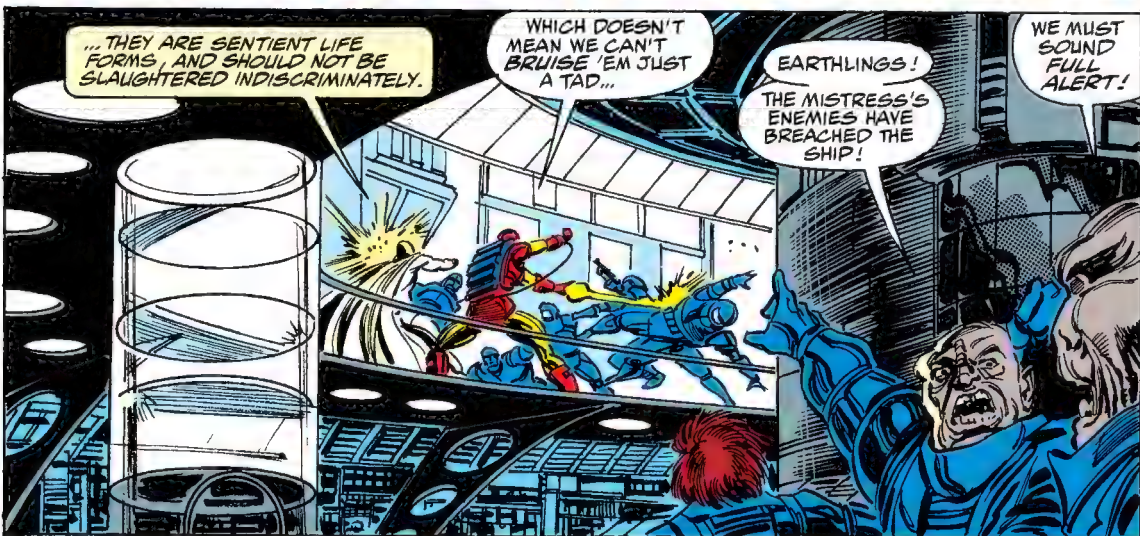


LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT DECREASING THE ODDS WITHOUT ACTUALLY KILLING ANYBODY!



I CONCUR.

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ALIENS, AND WITHOUT DISCERNIBLE MORAL FIBER...



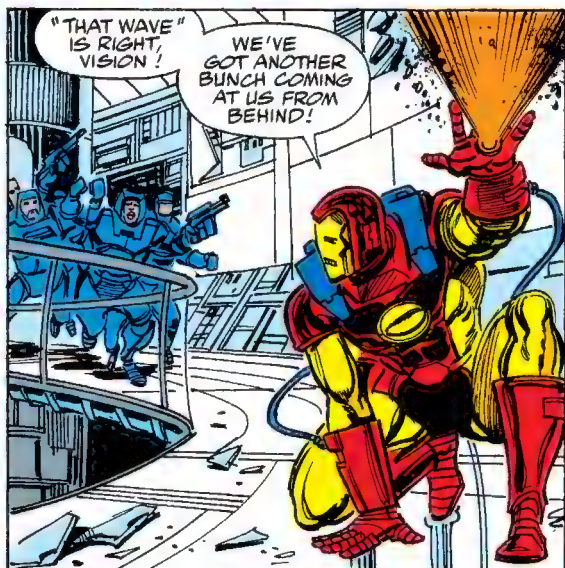
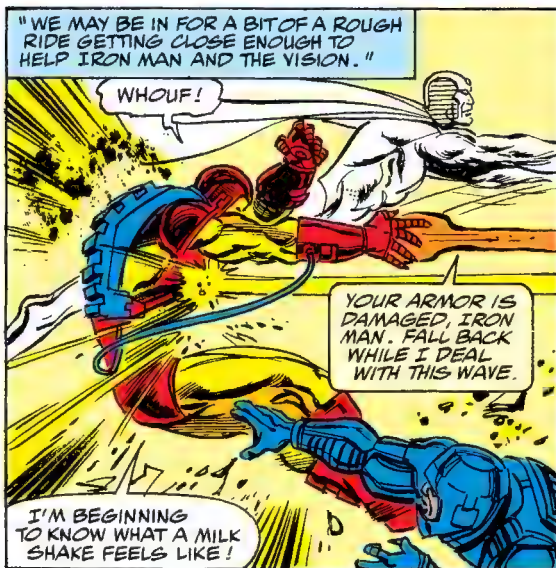
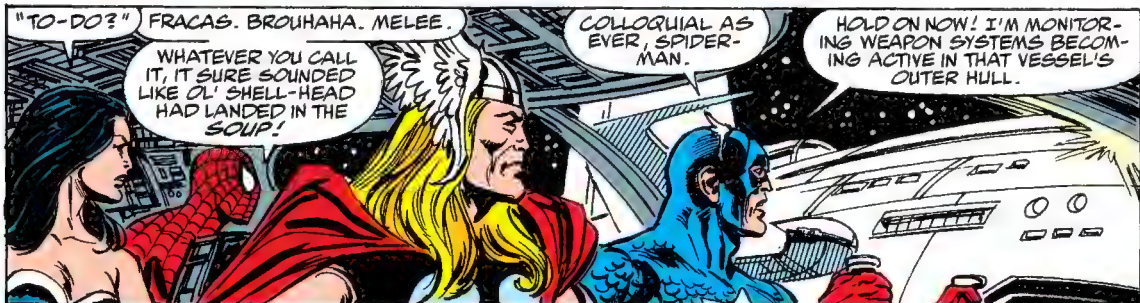
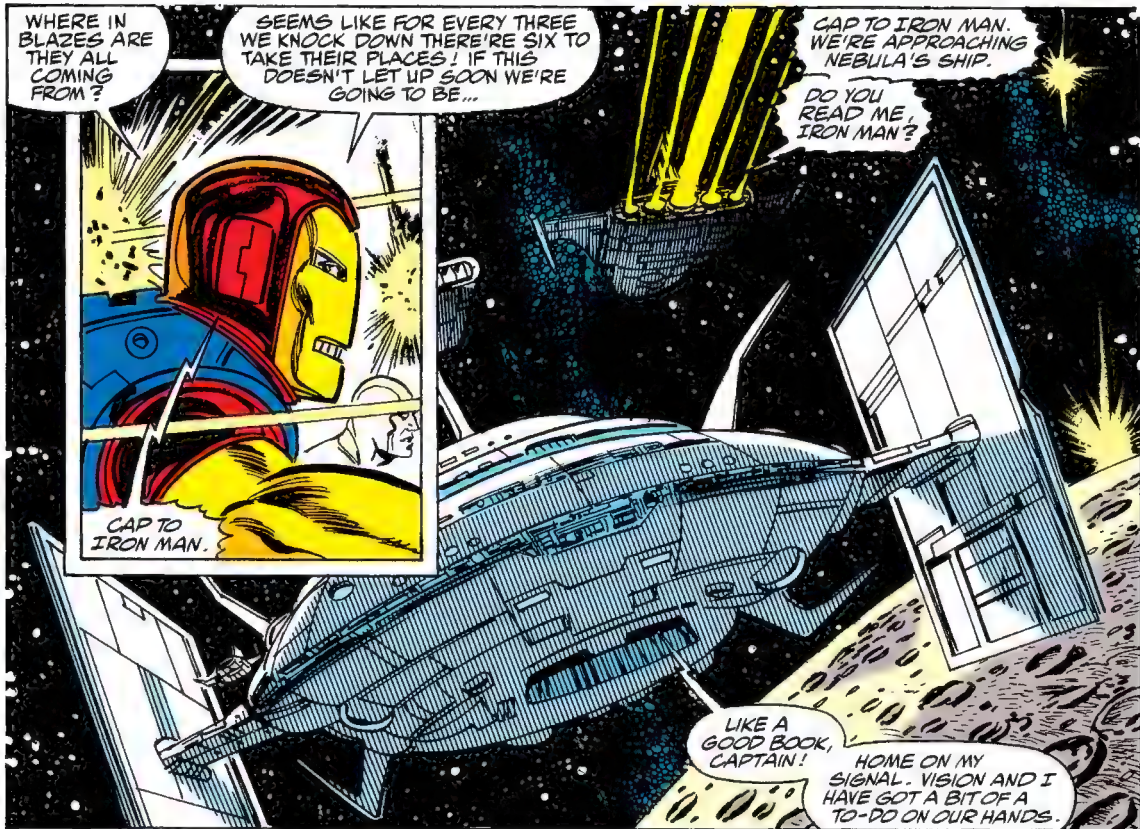
...THEY ARE SENTIENT LIFE FORMS, AND SHOULD NOT BE SLAUGHTERED INDISCRIMINATELY.

WHICH DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BRUISE 'EM JUST A TAD...

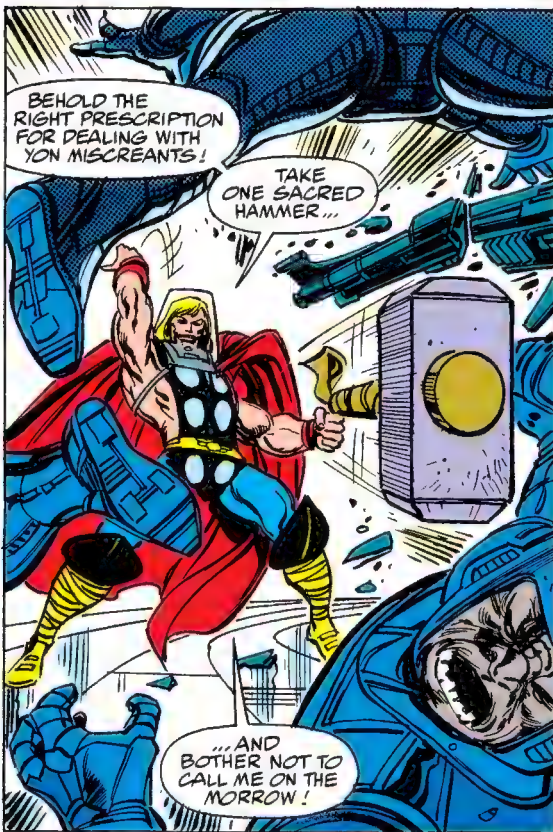
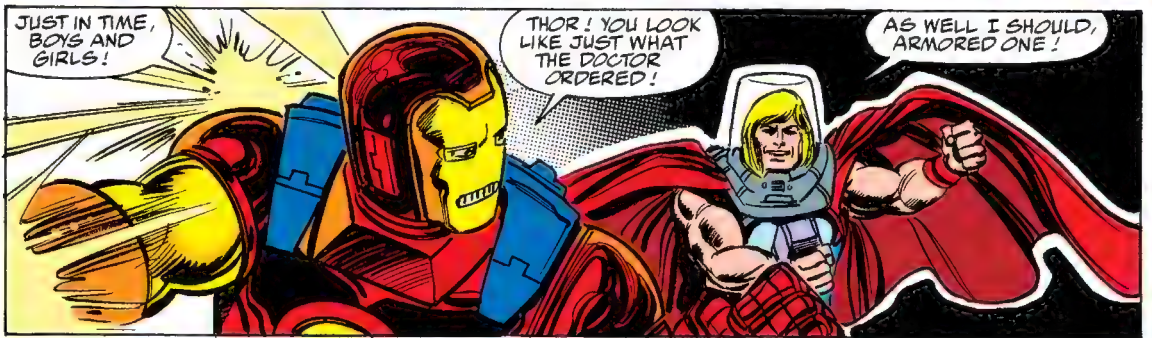
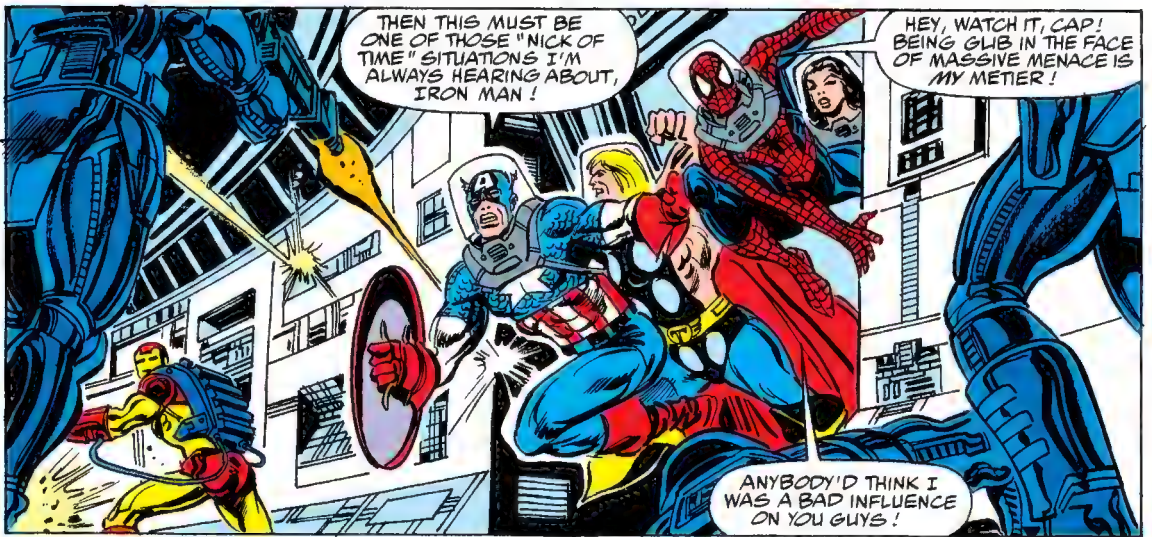
EARTHLINGS!  
THE MISTRESS'S ENEMIES HAVE BREACHED THE SHIP!

WE MUST SOUND FULL ALERT!

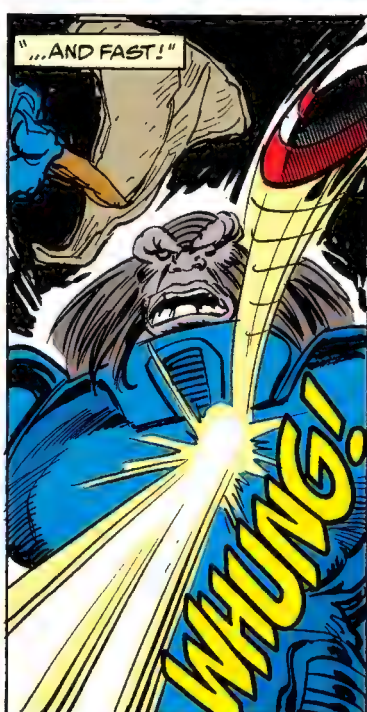
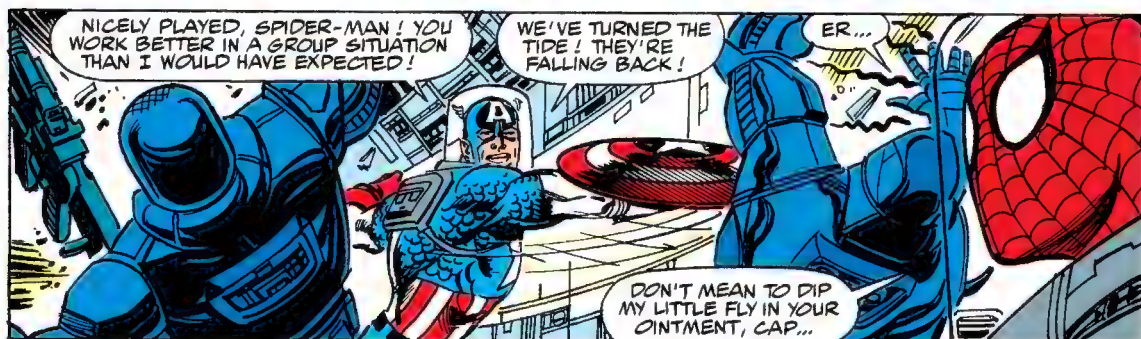




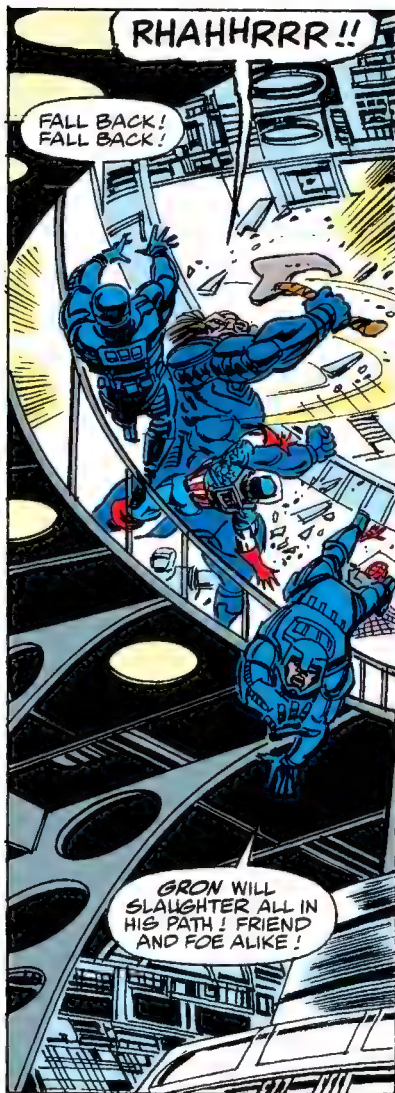








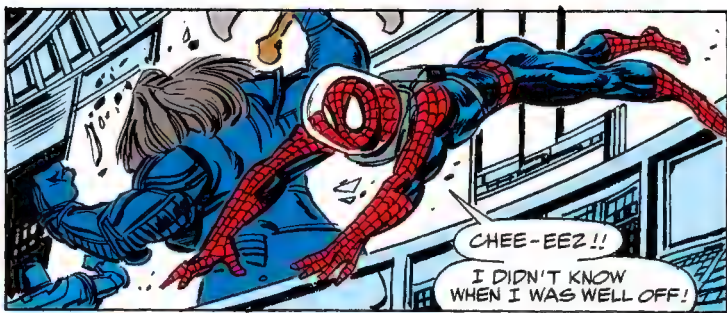




RHAHHRRR!!

FALL BACK!  
FALL BACK!

GRON WILL  
SLAUGHTER ALL IN  
HIS PATH! FRIEND  
AND FOE ALIKE!



CHEE-EEZ!!

I DIDN'T KNOW  
WHEN I WAS WELL OFF!



HERE I COULD BE  
HOME ON EARTH...

...TAKING  
MY LUMPS  
FROM DOC  
OCK OR THE  
VULTURE!



AND INSTEAD, I'M  
PLAYING HERO ON  
THE DARK SIDE OF  
THE MOON!

BY THE WAY,  
CAP, I'VE BEEN  
MEANING TO  
ASK...

DOESN'T THAT  
UNION SUIT OF  
YOURS VIOLATE  
THE CONTEMPT-  
OF-FLAG  
LEGISLATIONS?

I'VE NEVER  
MUCH THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT,  
SPIDER-MAN.



A FLAG IS  
ONLY A PIECE  
OF CLOTH,  
AFTER ALL.

IT'S WHAT IT  
REPRESENTS  
THAT MATTERS...

WOW! YOU'VE  
GOT A SPEECH FOR  
EVERY OCCASION,  
HAVEN'T YOU, CAP?



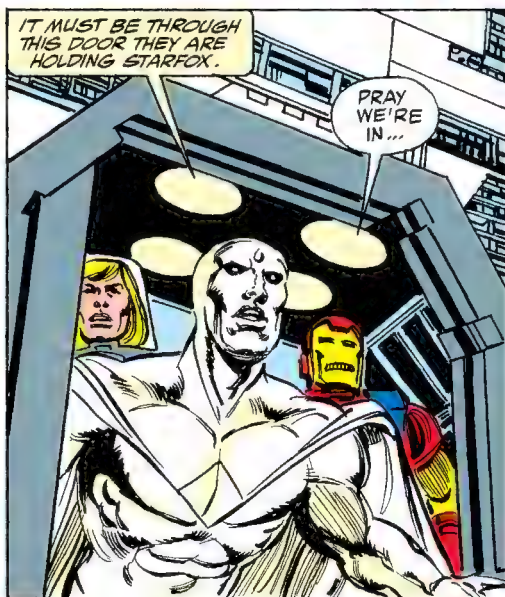
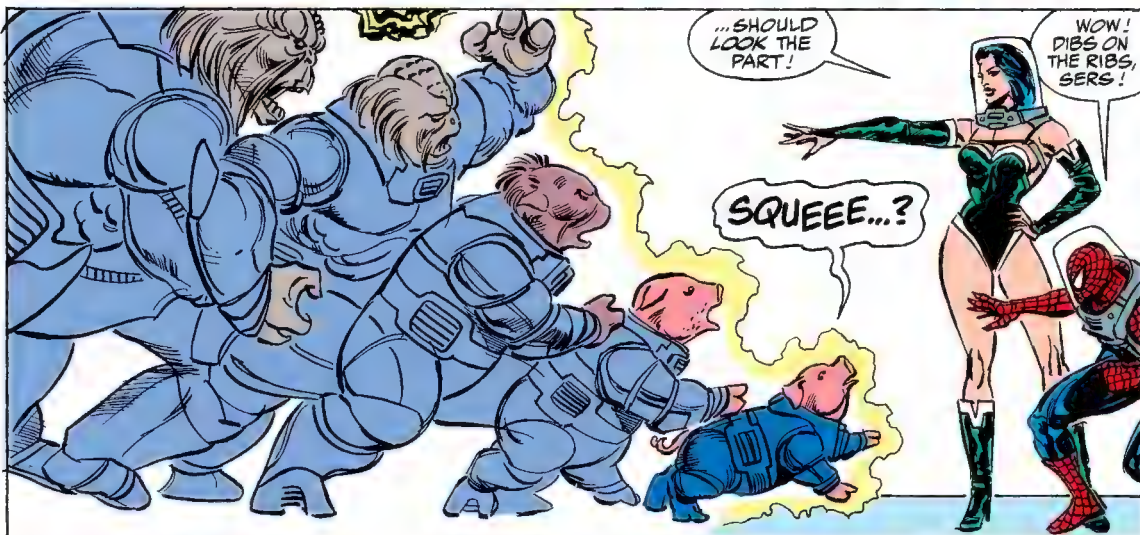
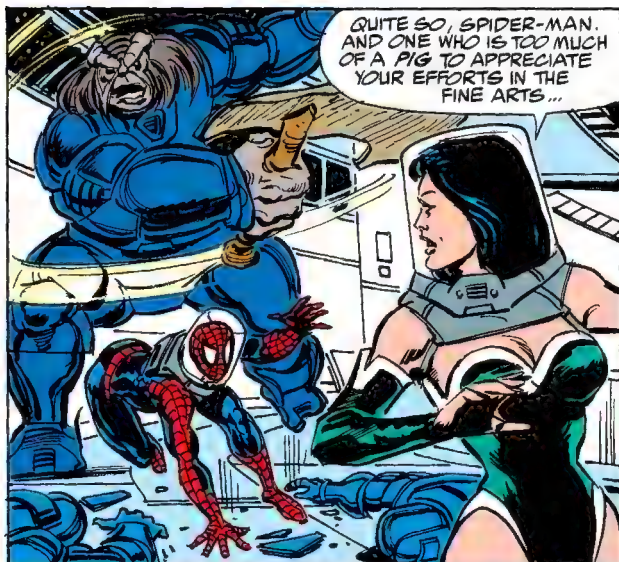
WELL, I'M A  
LITTLE MORE  
MUSICAL THAN  
VERBAL!



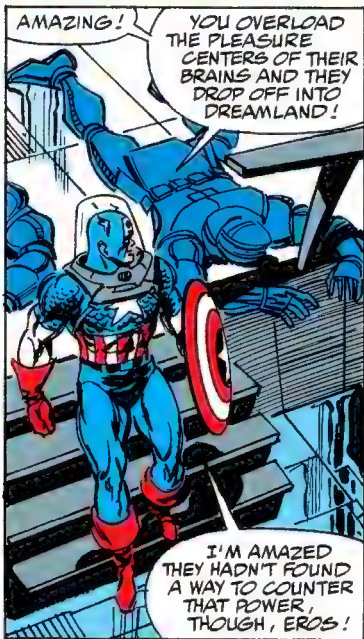
LIKE, HERE'S  
A SNAPPY LITTLE  
NUMBER I CALL  
"CONCERTO FOR  
FISTS AND BELLY  
BUTTONS!"

WHUK















SAY RATHER  
"SOMEONE!"

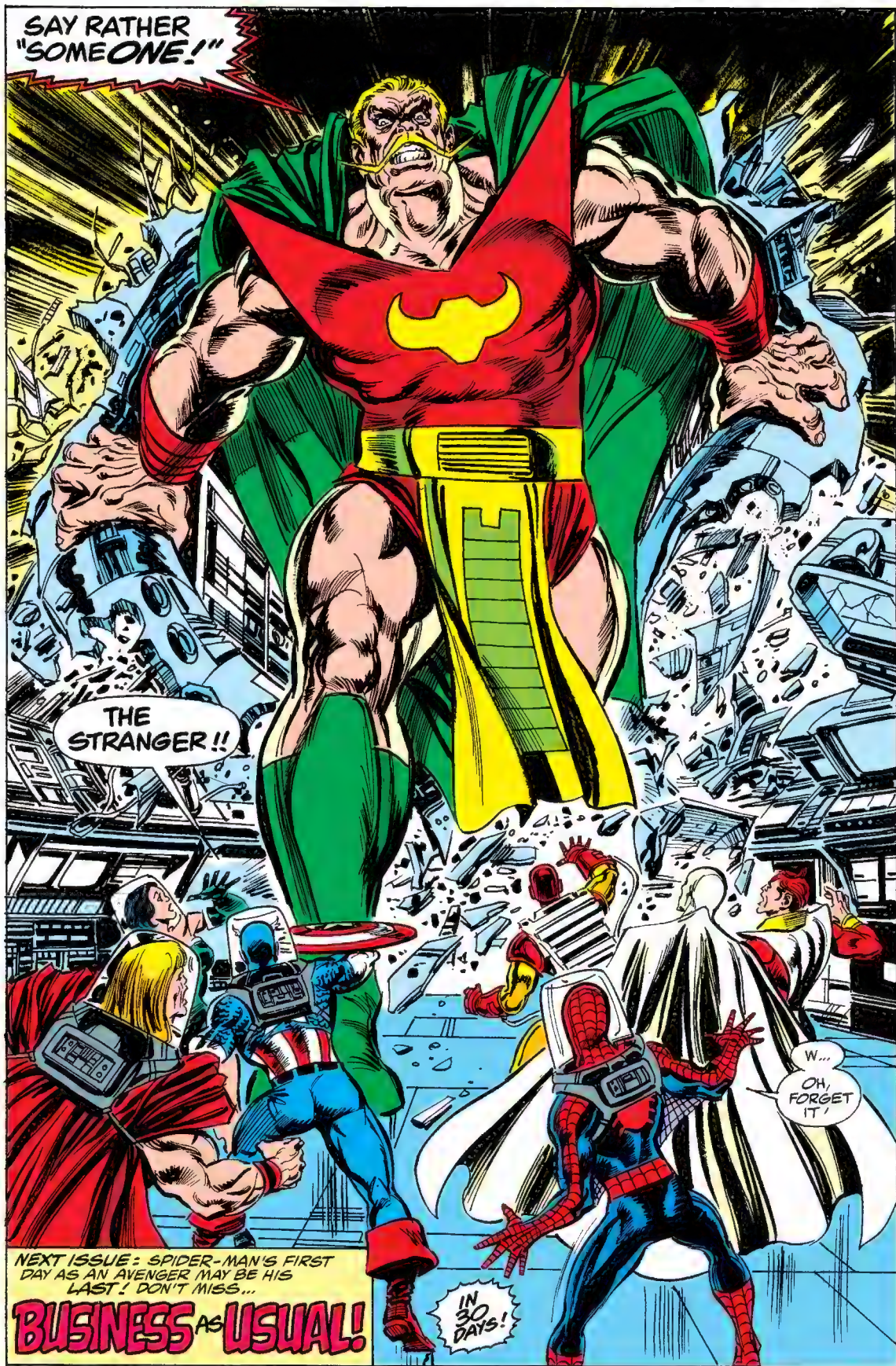
THE  
STRANGER!!

W...  
OH,  
FORGET  
IT!

NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-MAN'S FIRST  
DAY AS AN AVENGER MAY BE HIS  
LAST! DON'T MISS...

**BUSINESS AS USUAL!**

IN  
30  
DAYS!





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# AVENGERS

GUEST-STARRING  
the AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN



KYAN / PALMER



INSIDE THE TEMPORARY UNDERGROUND HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE AVENGERS EAST COAST DIVISION...

...EDWIN JARVIS, THE TEAM'S STAFF CO-ORDINATOR, DESPERATELY TRIES FINDING OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIS EMPLOYERS AND FRIENDS.

THIS IS MOST UPSETTING!

MASTERS CAPTAIN AMERICA, THOR, AND SPIDER-MAN, ALONG WITH MISTRESS SERSI, ROCKETED TOWARD NEBULA'S ORBITTING SPACESHIP TO ASSIST IRON MAN AND VISION!

NOW I CAN'T SEEM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANY OF THEM!

PERHAPS IF I CAN CONTACT YOUNG MASTER QUASAR--HIS LIGHT-SPAWNING POWERS ARE AS EQUALLY ADAPT IN SPACE AS THEY ARE ON EARTH.

OH, MY!

I SEEM TO HAVE FINALLY ACCESSED AN AVENGERS COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE WHICH IS IN THE VICINITY OF THE QUINJET'S HOMING BEACON!

BUT--MY WORD--NEBULA'S SHIP IS SO IMMENSE IN COMPARISON TO OUR CRAFTS!

NEITHER THE GAPING HOLE NOR THE HINT OF AN EVEN LARGER CRAFT LOOMING IN THE BACKGROUND BODES WELL FOR MY LOST COMRADES...

WHERE IS MASTER QUASAR?

WHAT CAN I BE EXPECTED TO DO ALONE?



AS LITTLE AS THE AVENGERS, IT WOULD SEEM, WHEN CONFRONTED BY A BEING OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER SUCH AS--

# THE STRANGER

WHERE IS NEBULA?!

THE SCENE BEFORE THEM WOULD MAKE THE BLOOD OF A NORMAL PERSON CHILL. FOR EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, IT'S SIMPLY--

# BUSINESS AS USUAL

BROUGHT TO YOU IN A VERY UNUSUAL MANNER BY--

JOHN BYRNE PLOT  
FABIAN NIECZA SCRIPT

PAUL RYAN ARTISTS  
TOM PALMER

JACK MORELLI LETTERS  
CHRISTIE SCHEELER COLORS

HOWARD MACKIE EDITOR  
TOM DEFALCO BOSS

THEY STAND SURPRISED BUT INSTANTLY READY FOR ACTION! THEY ARE--

SERSI, ETERNAL MISTRESS OF MOLECULAR MATTER! THOR, NORSE GOD OF THUNDER AND WIELDER OF THE MIGHTY MJOLNIR, HAMMER OF AWESOME POWER!

CAPTAIN AMERICA, LIVING LEGEND AND SUPER-SOLDIER!

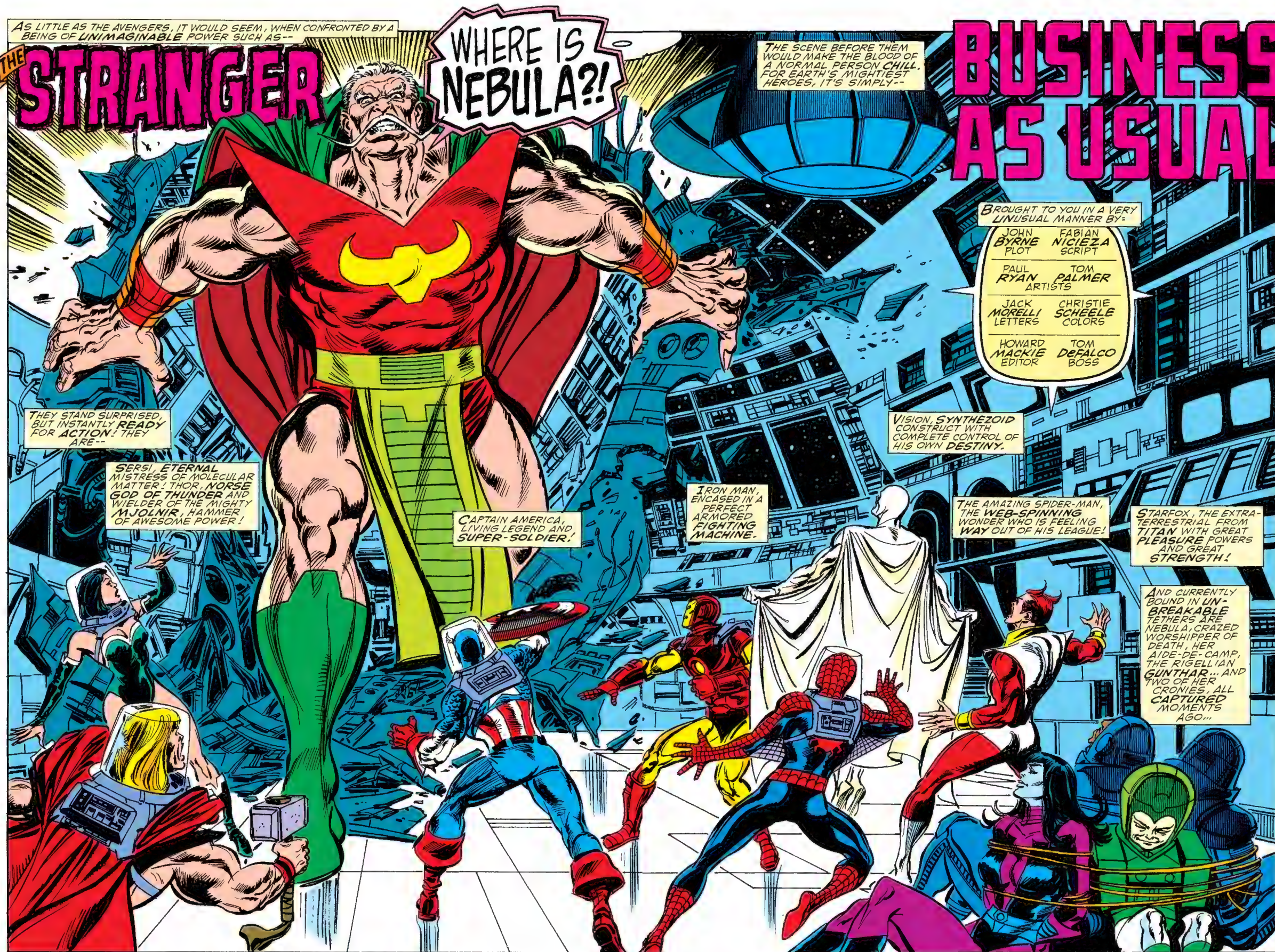
IRON MAN, ENCASED IN A PERFECT ARMORED FIGHTING MACHINE.

VISION, SYNTHETOID CONSTRUCT WITH COMPLETE CONTROL OF HIS OWN DESTINY.

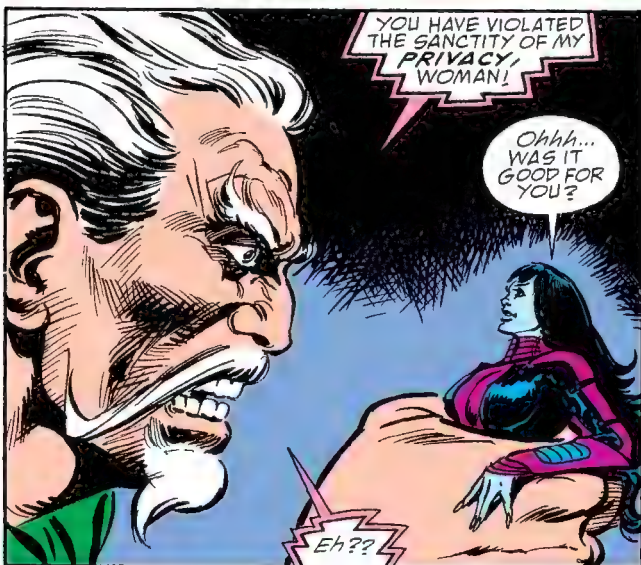
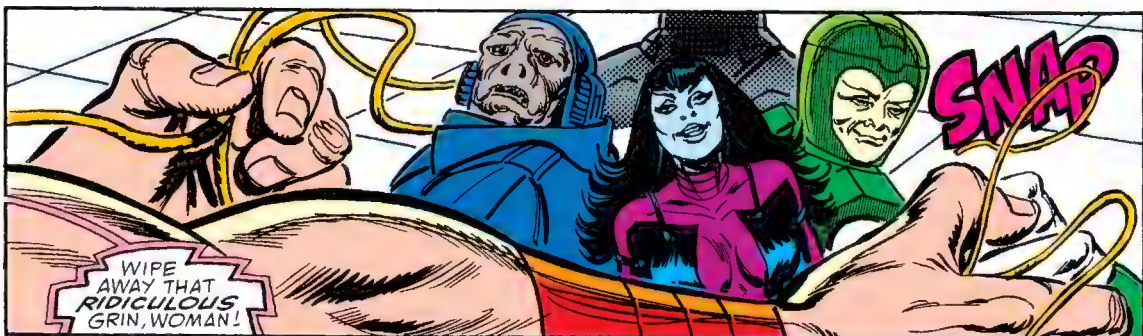
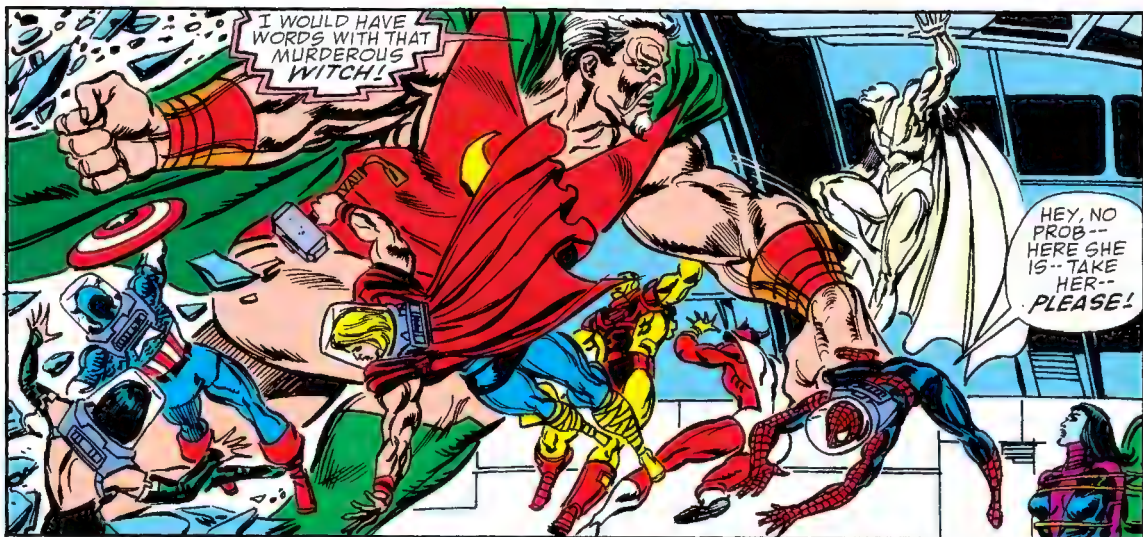
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE WEB-SPINNING WONDER WHO IS FEELING WAY OUT OF HIS LEAGUE!

STARFOX, THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL FROM TITAN WITH GREAT PLEASURE POWERS AND GREAT STRENGTH!

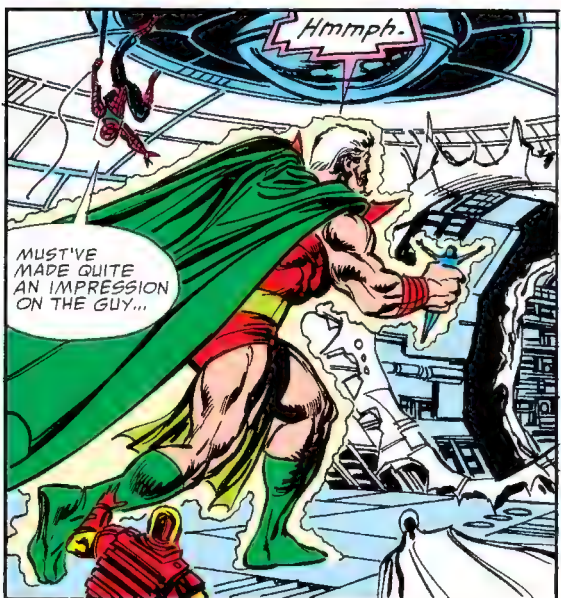
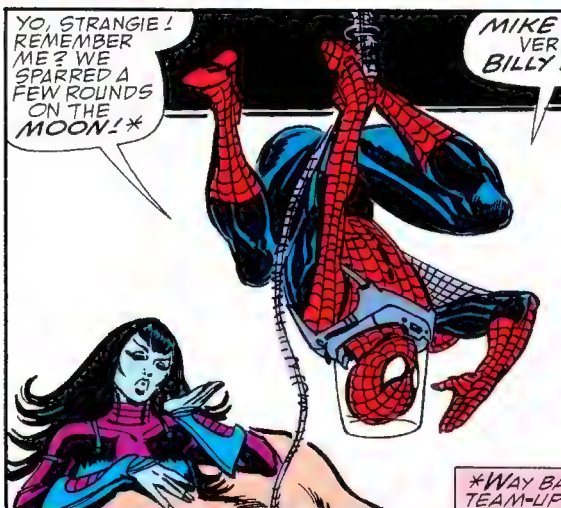
AND CURRENTLY BOUND IN UN-BREAKABLE TETHERS ARE NEBULA, CRAZED WORSHIPPER OF DEATH, HER AIDE-DE-CAMP, THE RIGELLIAN GUNTHAR... AND TWO OF HER CRONIES, ALL CAPTURED MOMENTS AGO...



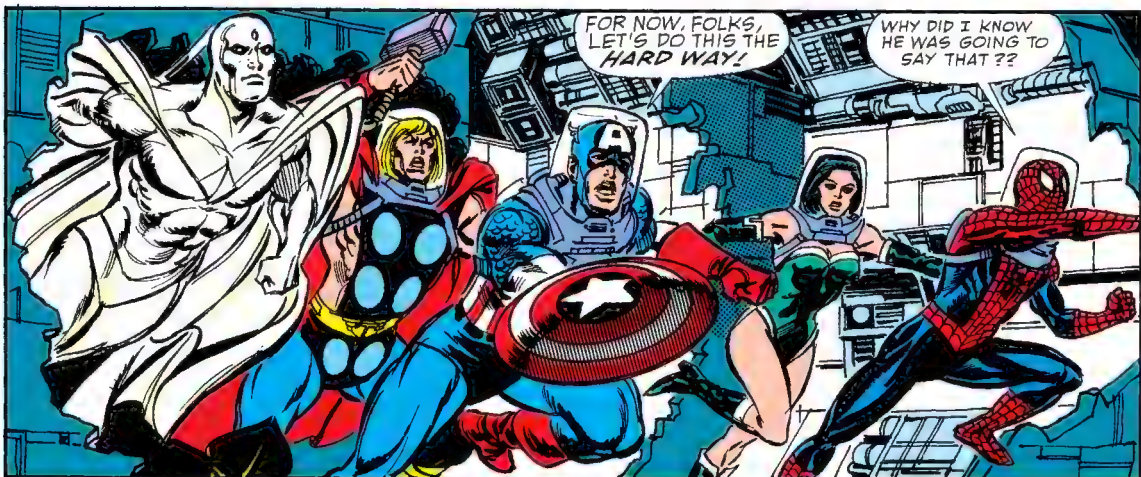








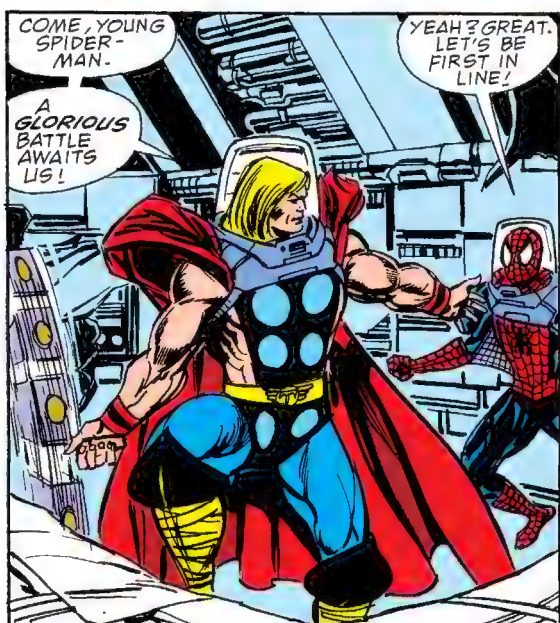
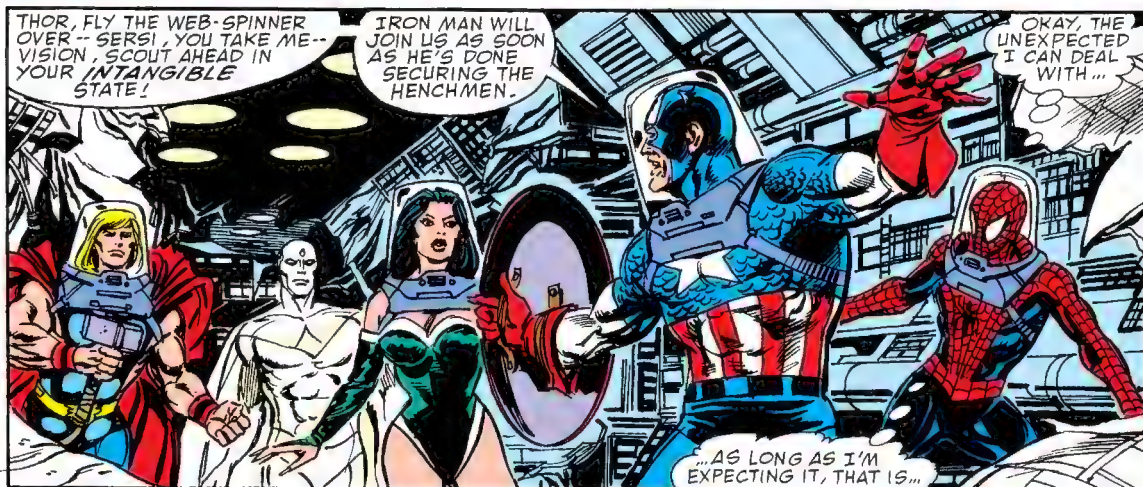




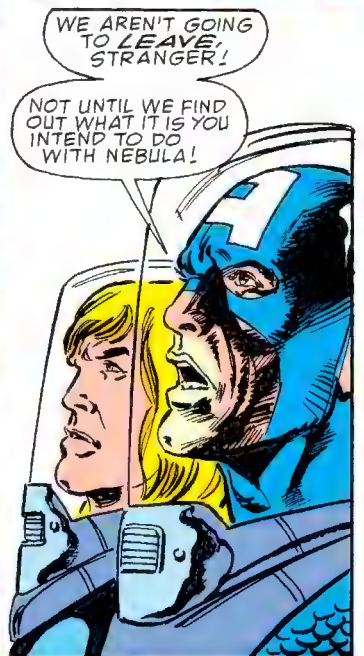
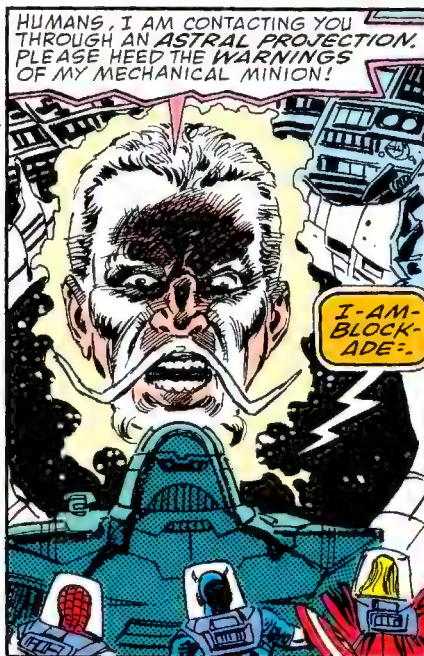
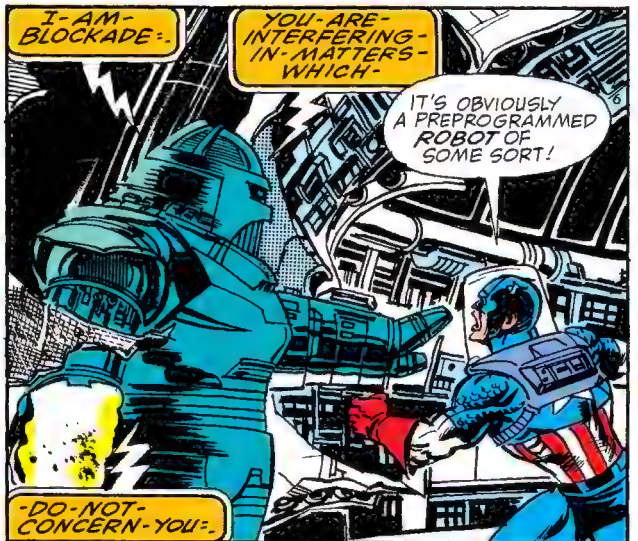
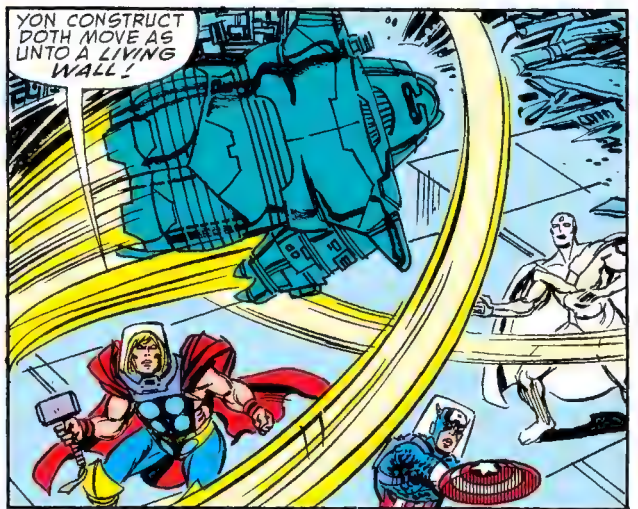
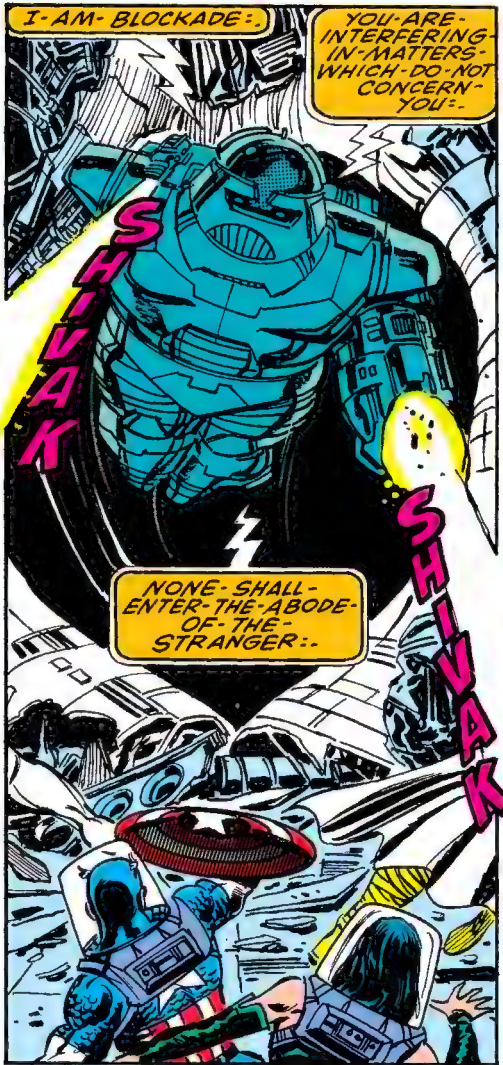




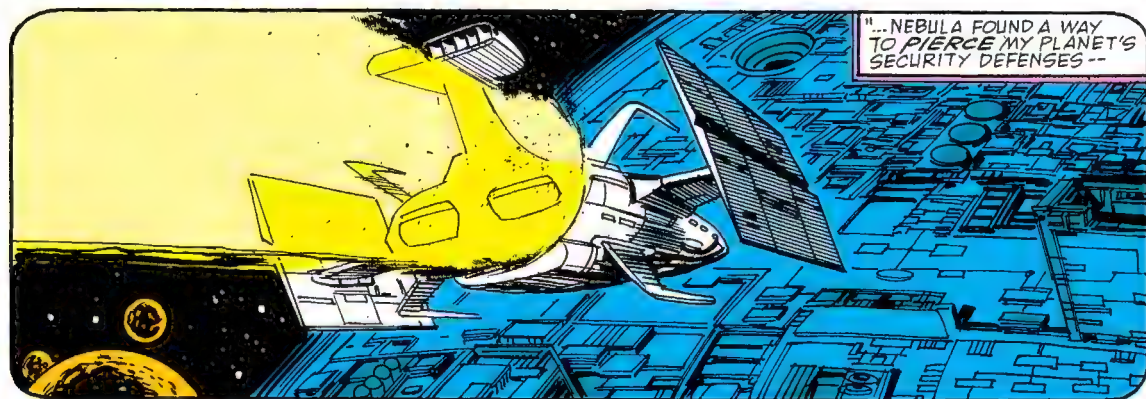
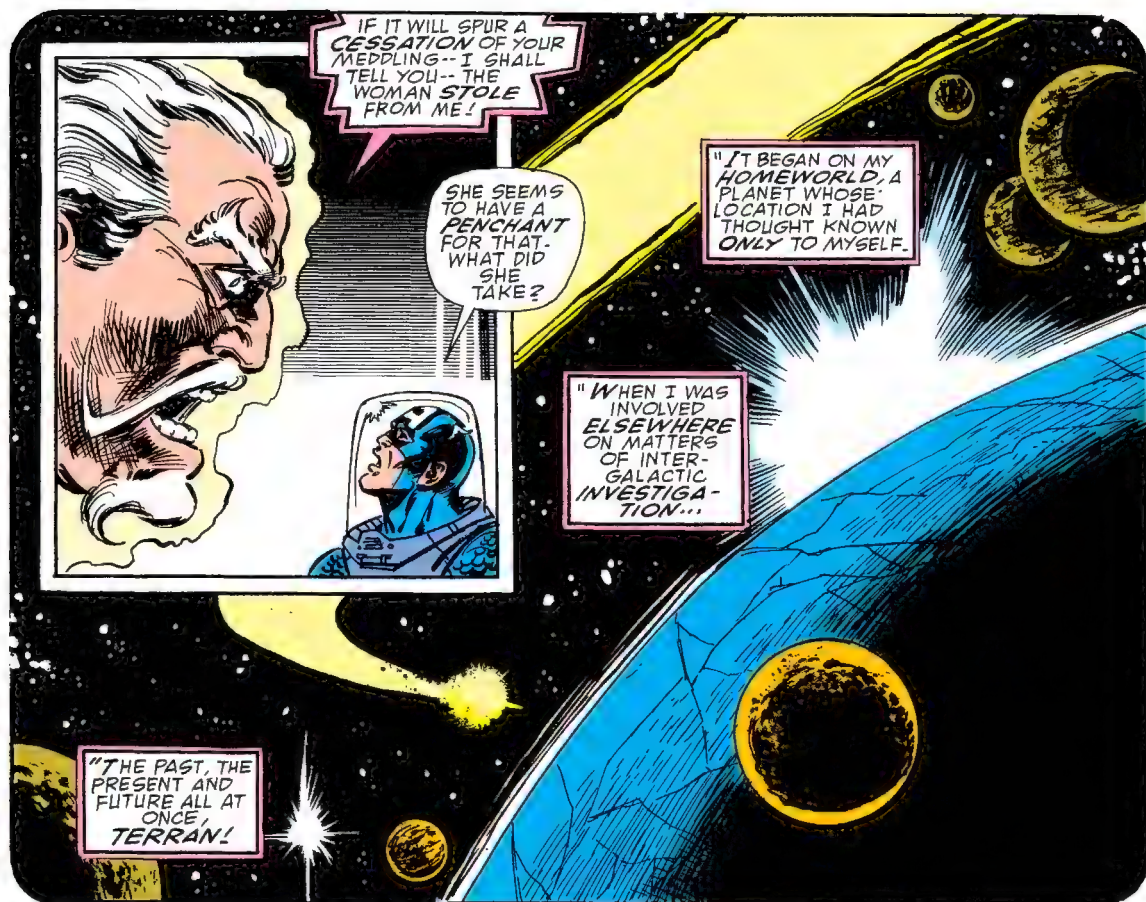




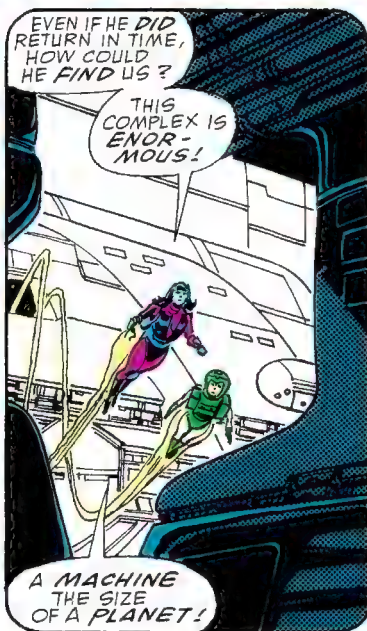
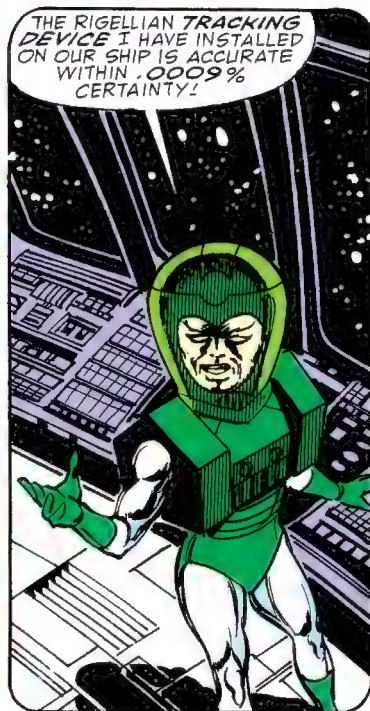
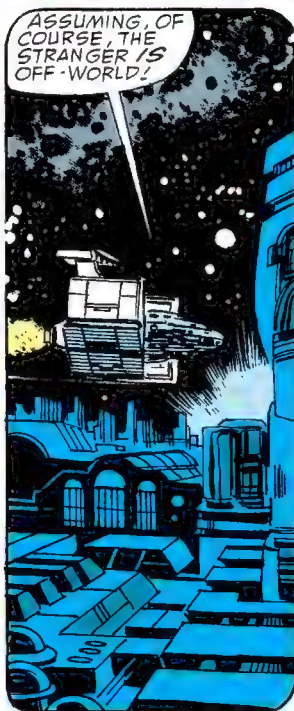
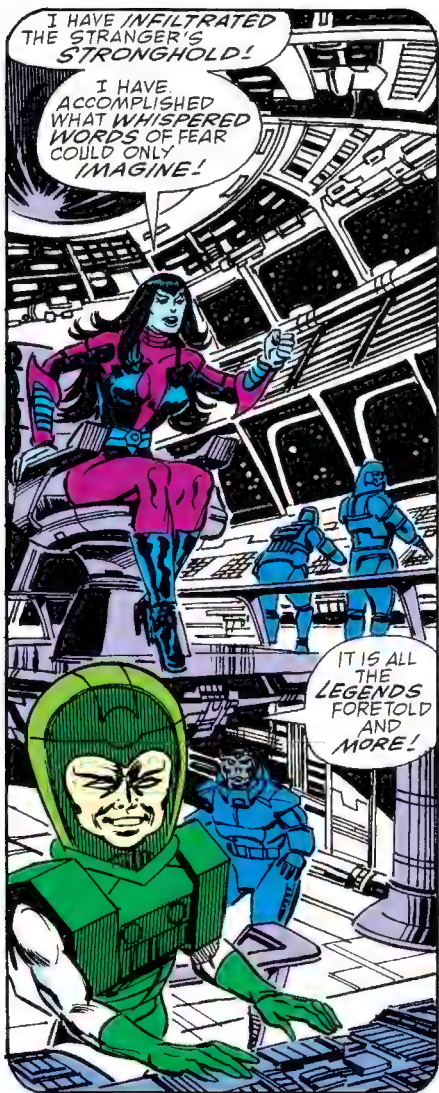




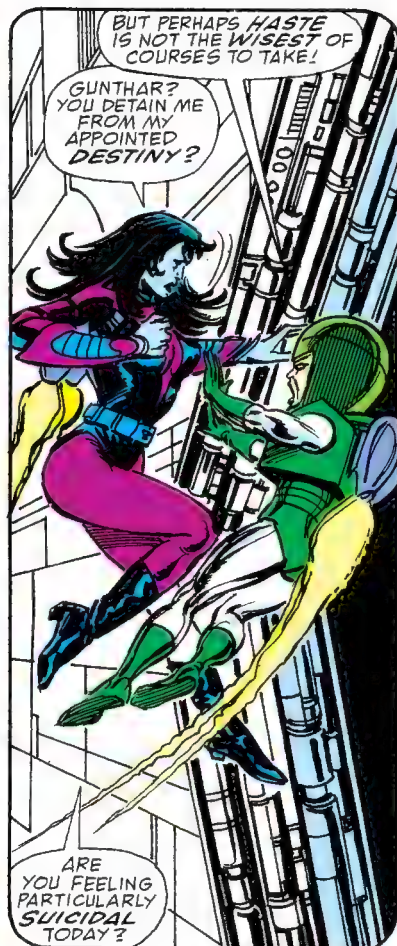
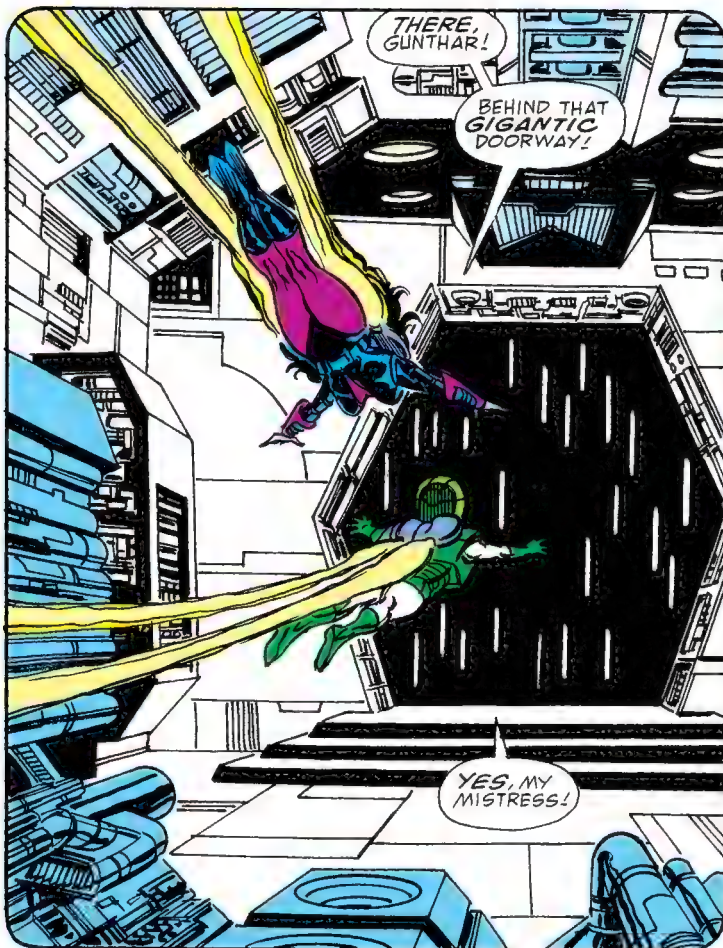




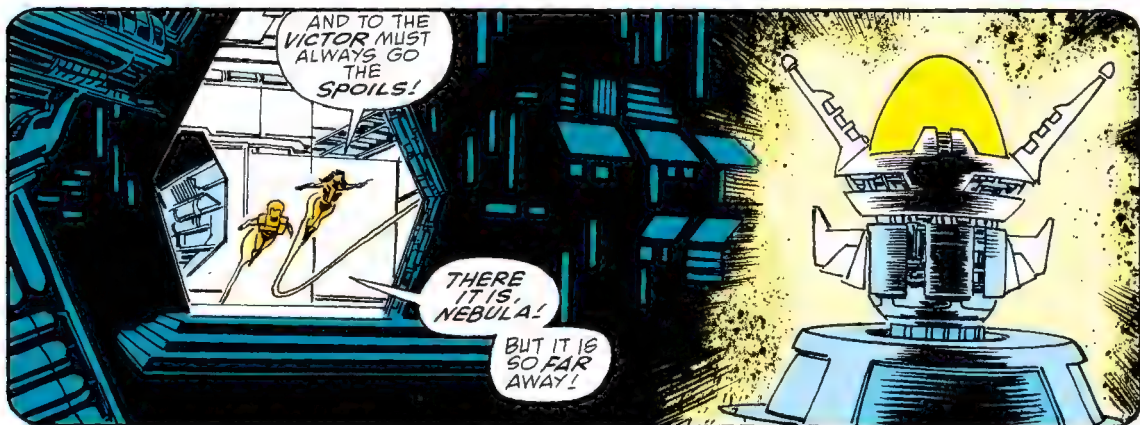
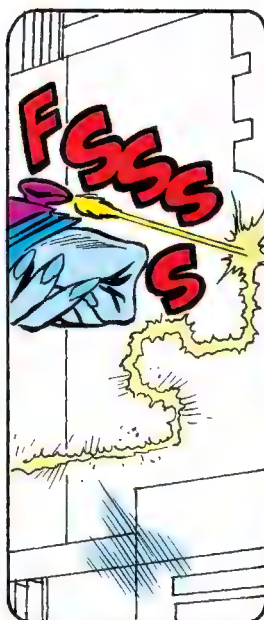
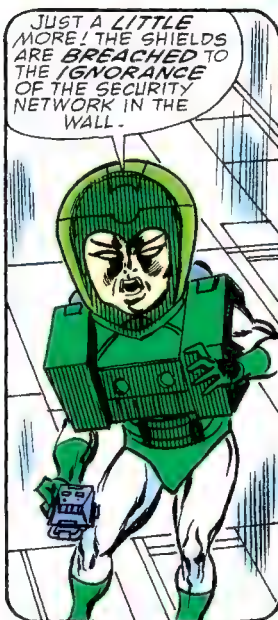
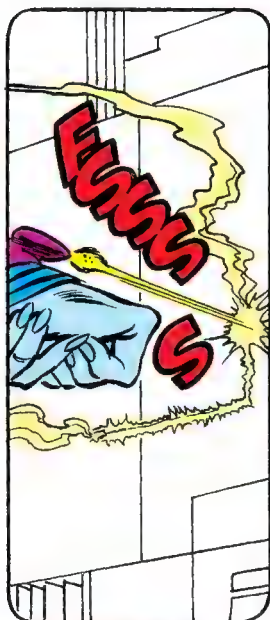




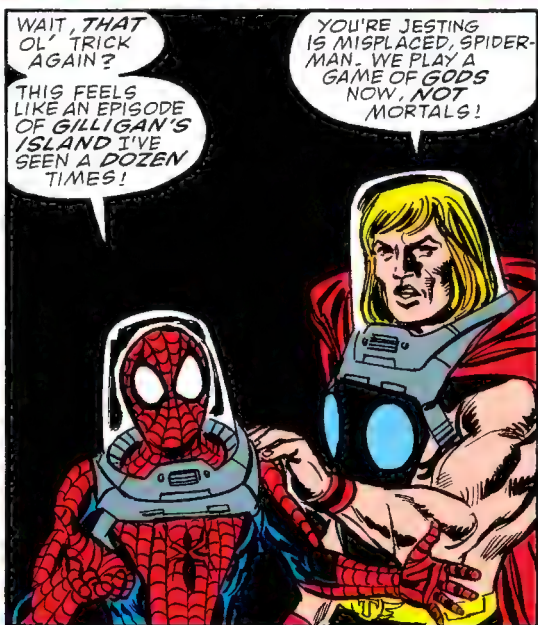
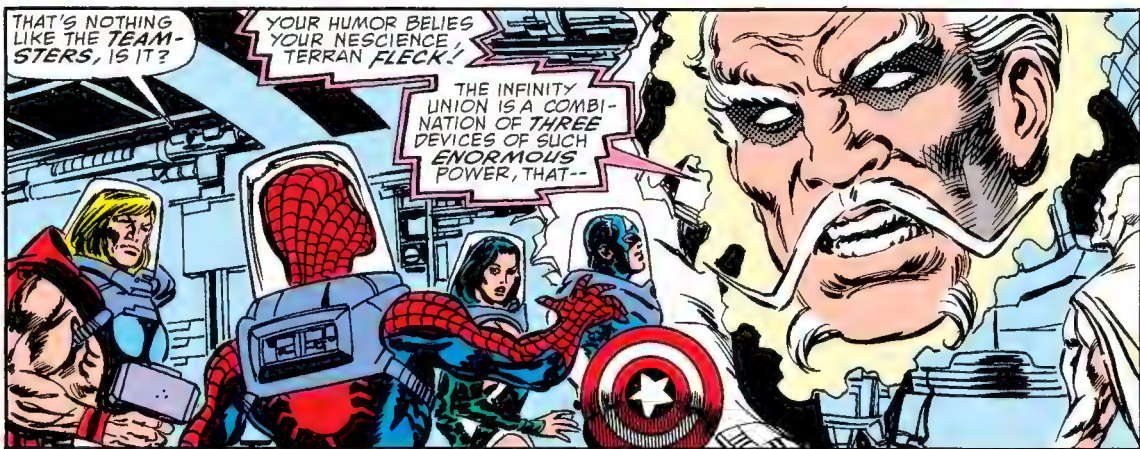
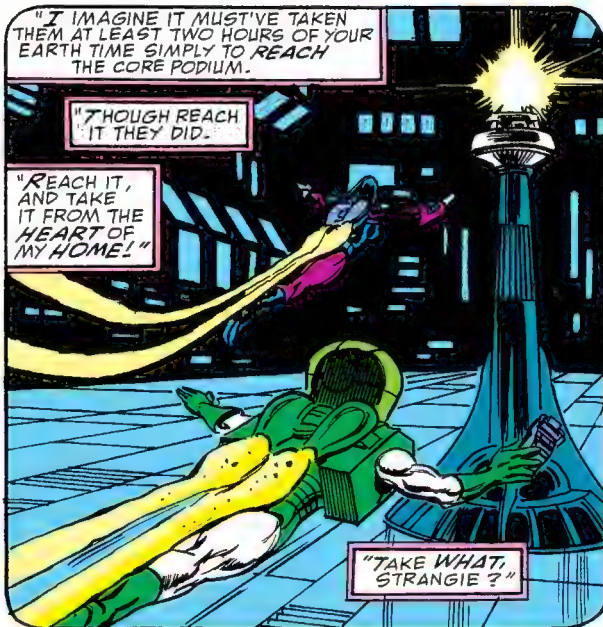




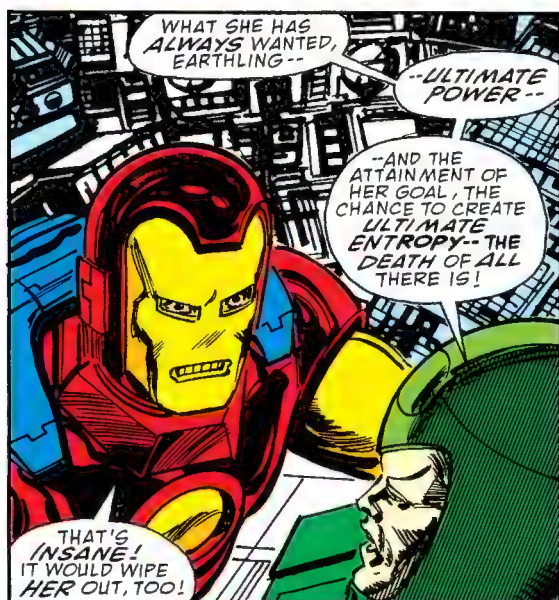
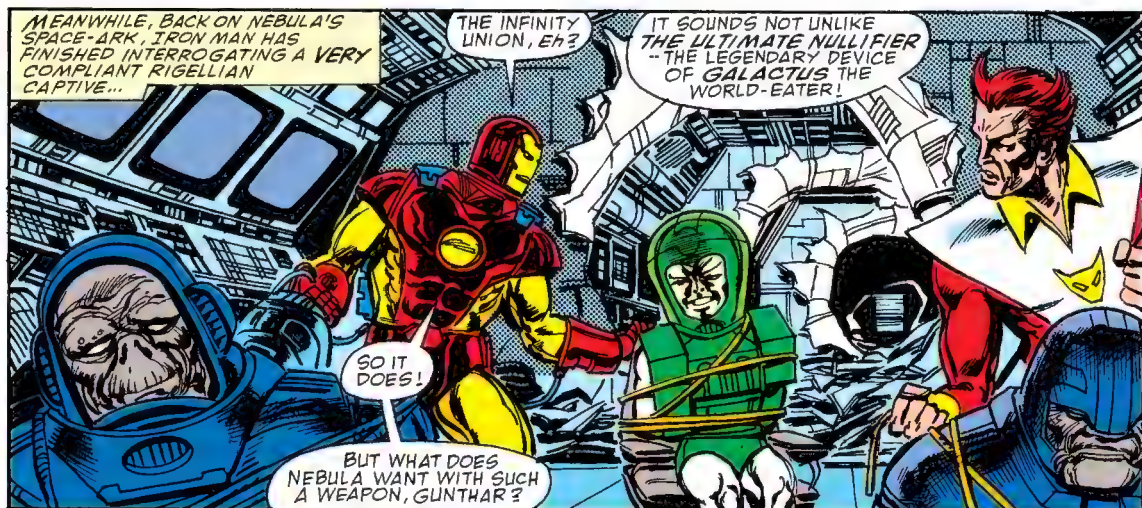














MEANWHILE, IN THE MEDICAL-SCIENCE SECTION OF THE STRANGER'S CONTINENT-SIZED SPACESHIP...

MOST ANNOYING.

THE SYNAPTIC BLOCKING POWER THE TITANIAN EMPLOYED ON HER HAS NOT WORN OFF.

THE LONGER IT TAKES, THE GREATER THE DANGER!

THE INFINITY UNION *MUST* BE REMANDED INTO MY SAFE CUSTODY!

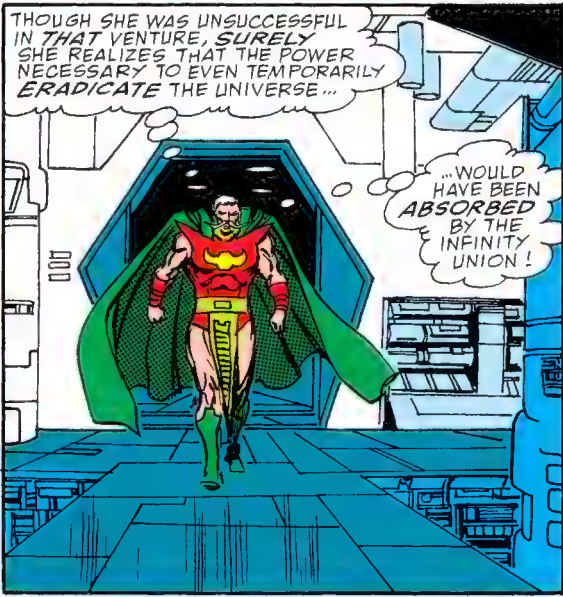
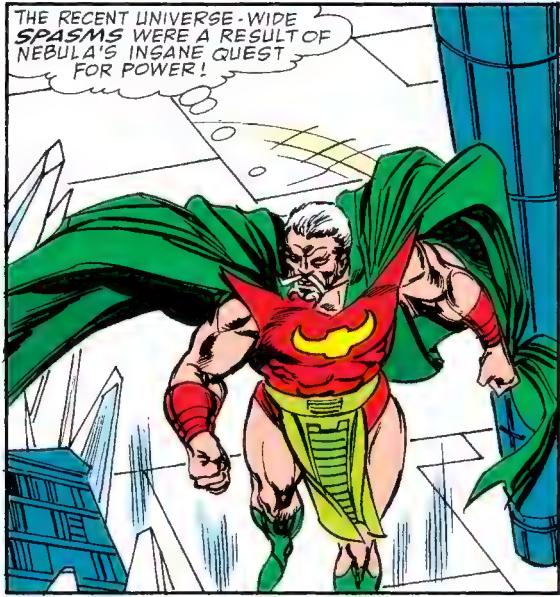
THOUGH I CANNOT DISCERN ITS LOCATION FROM NEBULA, I CAN CERTAINLY GUESS HER INTENTIONS FOR ITS USE!



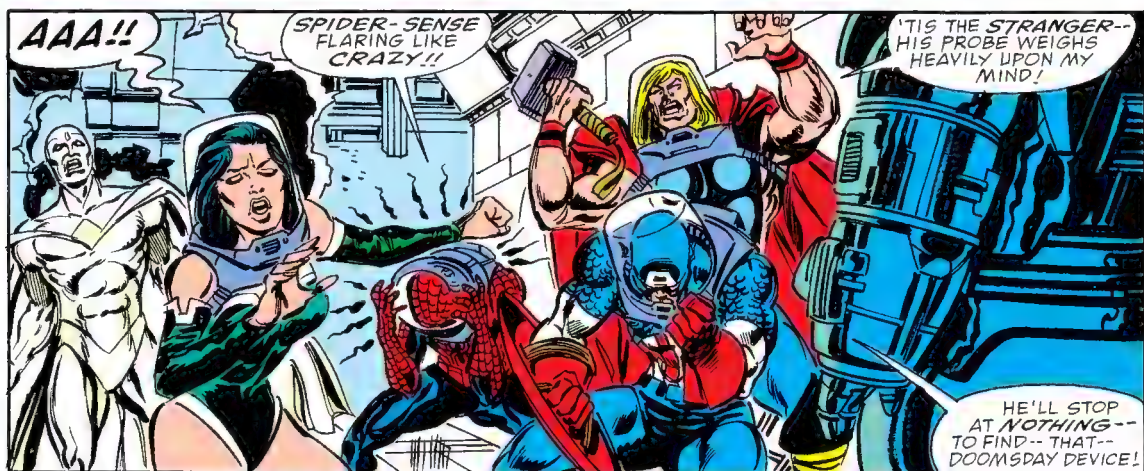
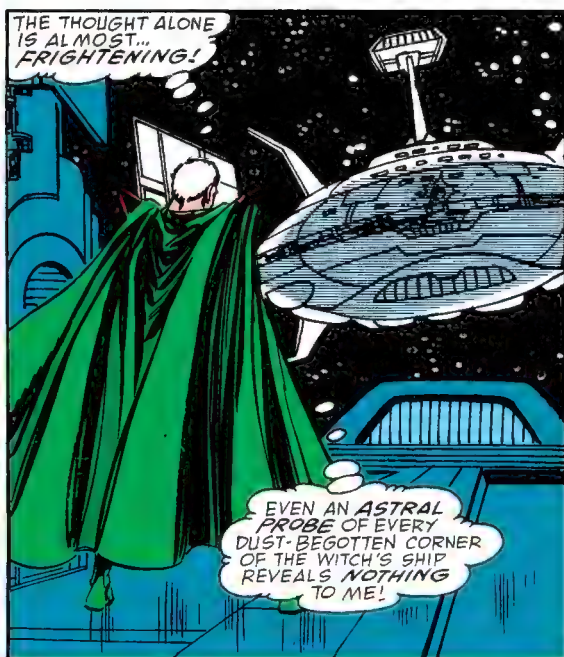
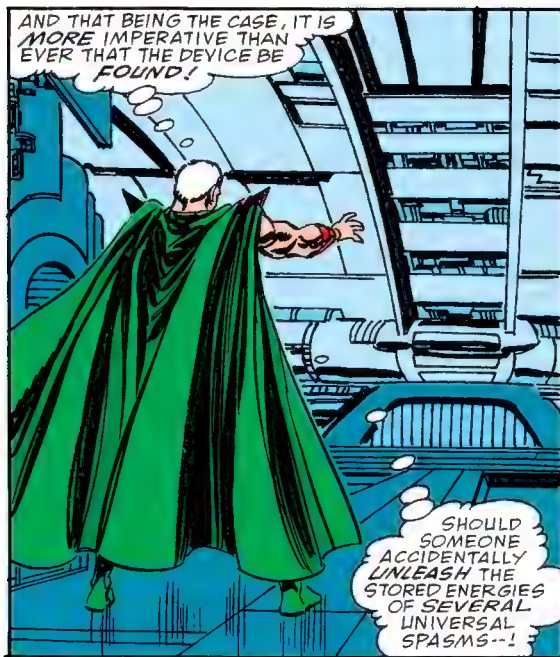
THE RECENT UNIVERSE-WIDE SPASMS WERE A RESULT OF NEBULA'S INSANE QUEST FOR POWER!

THOUGH SHE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THAT VENTURE, SURELY SHE REALIZES THAT THE POWER NECESSARY TO EVEN TEMPORARILY ERADICATE THE UNIVERSE...

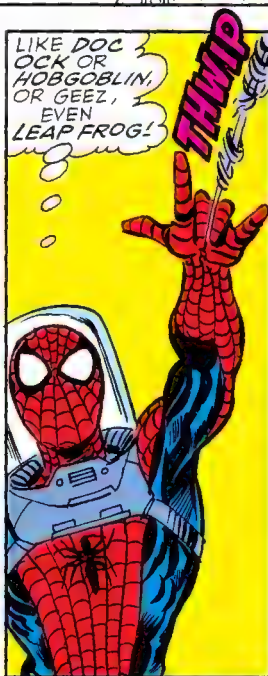
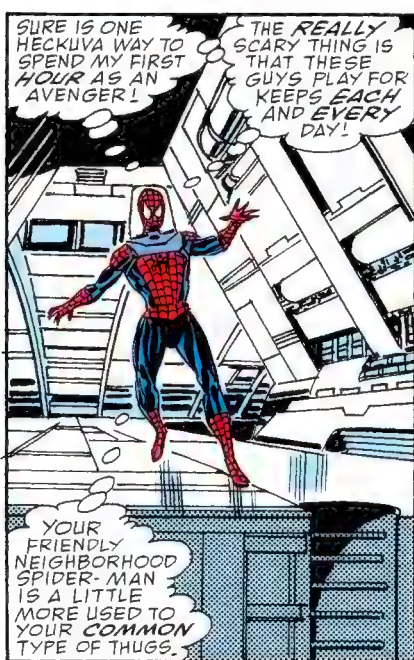
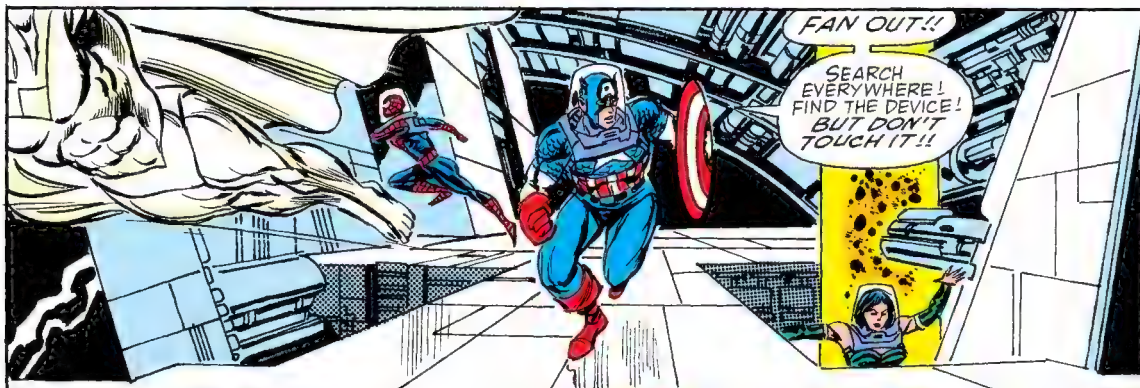
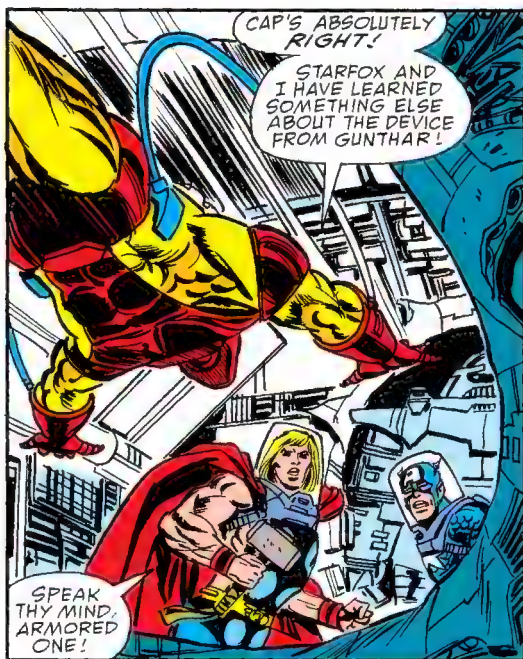
...WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSORBED BY THE INFINITY UNION!



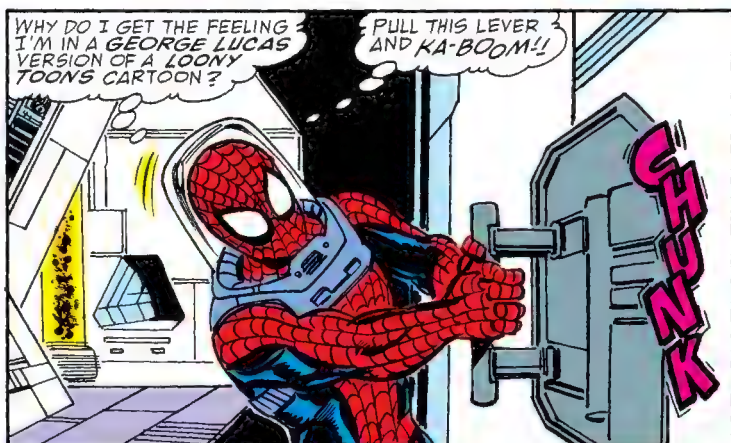
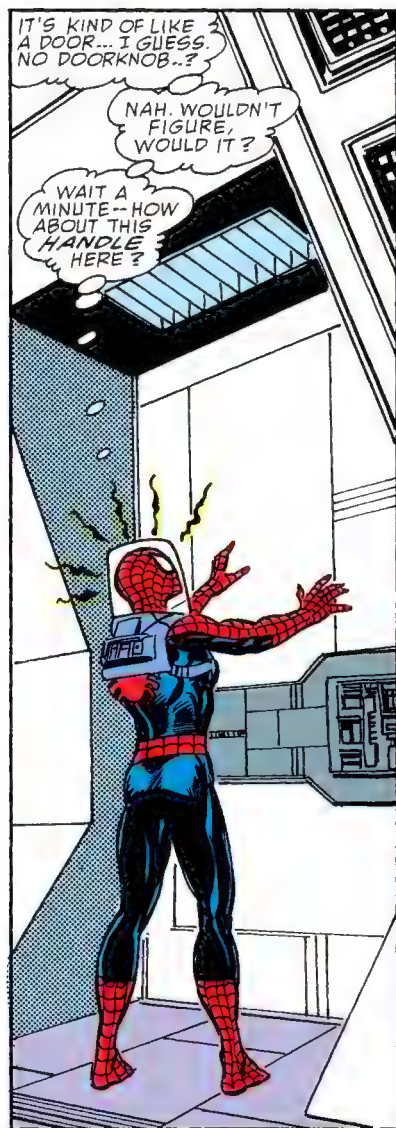
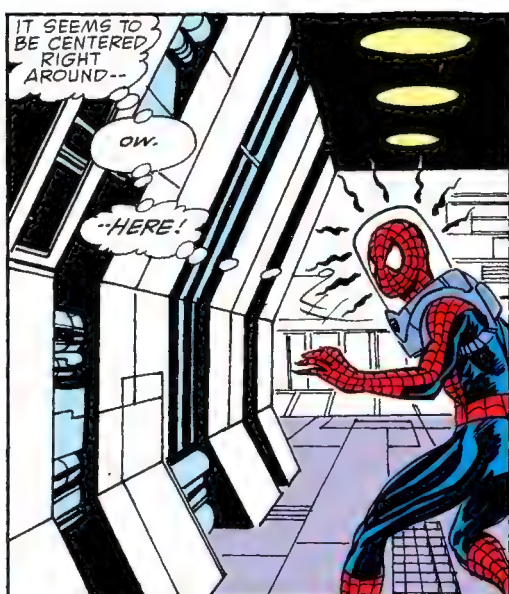
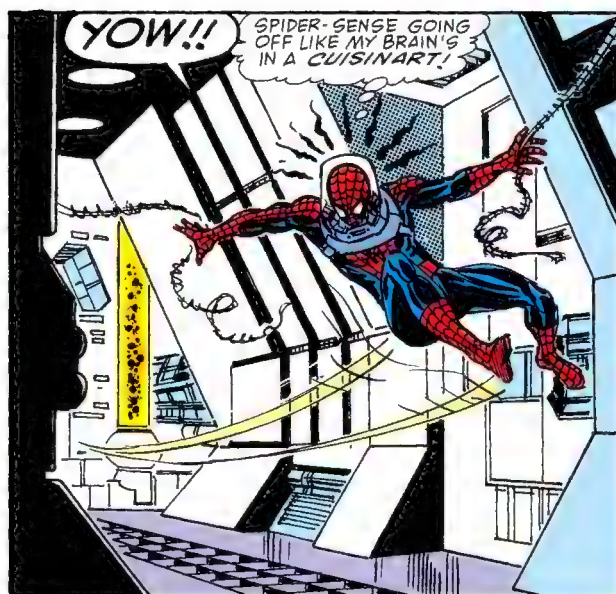














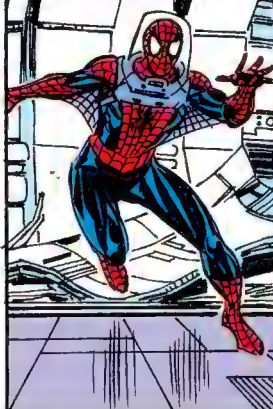
# SHRYANK

THERE'S A CERTAIN PRIMAL THRILL TO IT, I GOTTA ADMIT!



JACKPOT.

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE'S BEEN AFTER?



DOESN'T LOOK ANYMORE DANGEROUS THEN VCR INSTRUCTIONS IN JAPANESE!

CAP DID SAY NOT TO TOUCH THE THING...

...BUT MY SPIDER-SENSE IS GIVING ME ONE KILLER...

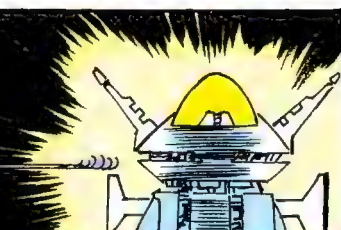


...AND IF I WAIT TOO LONG, THE STRANGER OR NEBBY MIGHT STUMBLE IN--AND HOW DO I KEEP THEM FROM GETTING IT?



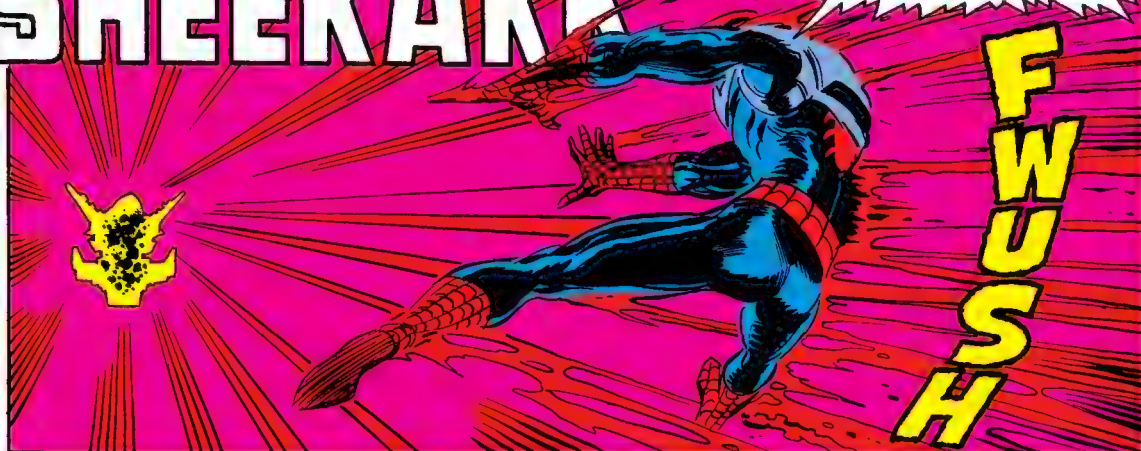
SO IF I SORT OF HOOK A WEB-STRING ONTO IT AND KIND OF DRAG IT BACK--

--WHAT'S THE WORST THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?



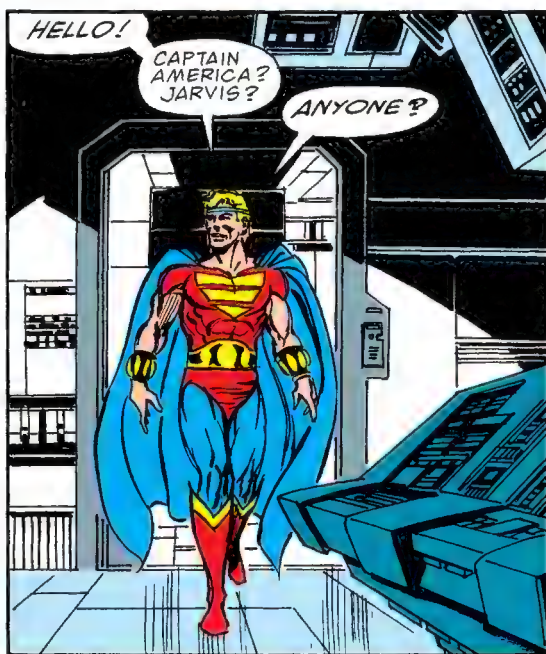
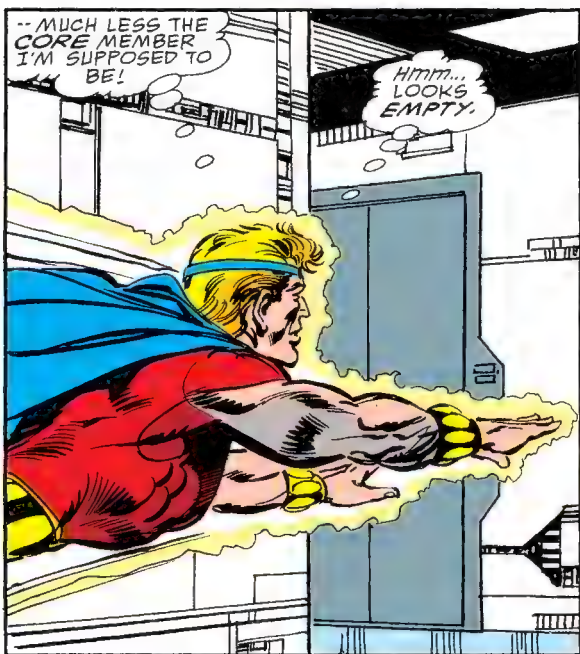
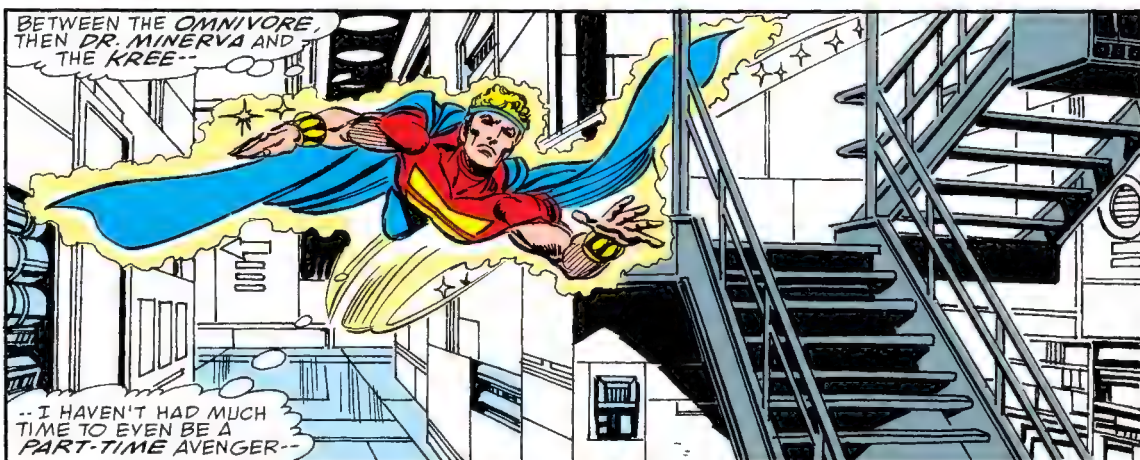
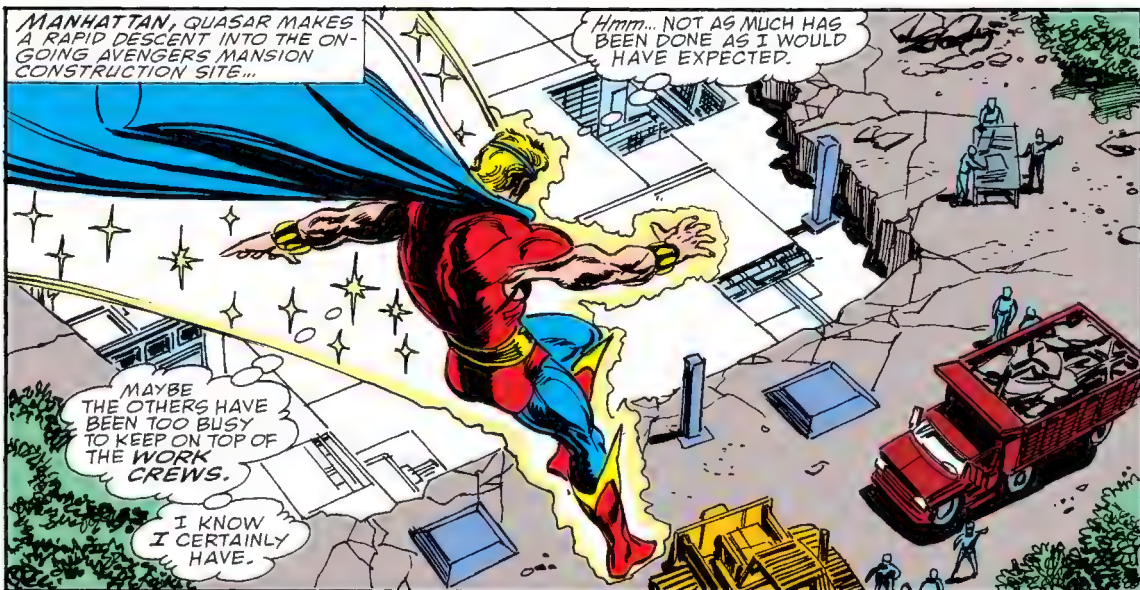
# SHEEKAKK

# YAAARGH!!

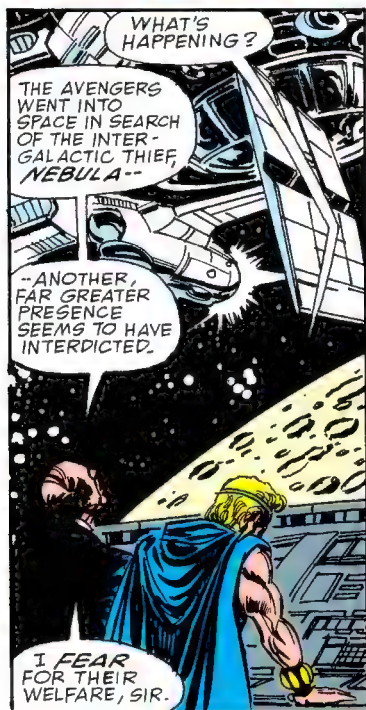
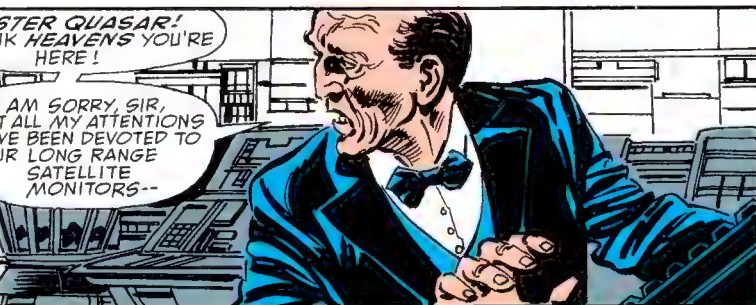
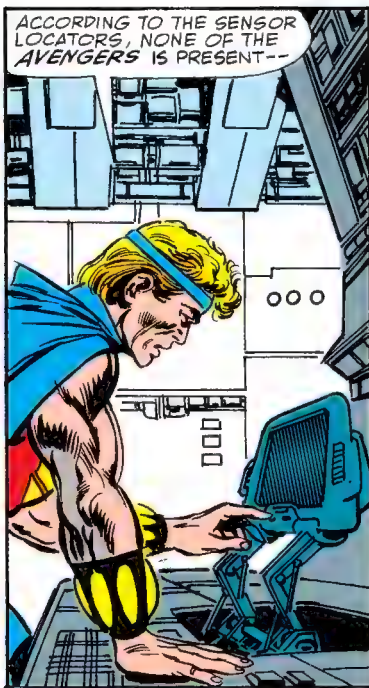
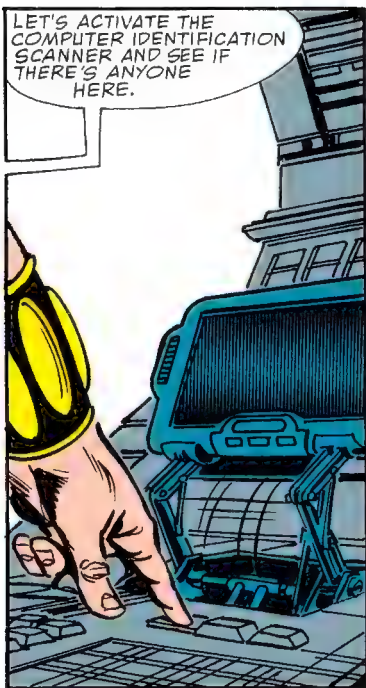


# FWUSH











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COMICS



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JUN  
02458

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

THOR CAPTAIN AMERICA IRON MAN

# AVENGERS

GUEST-  
STARRING  
THE AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN

NEBULA  
TRIUMPHANT!



RYAN / HALL



АН НАН НАНА  
НА НА  
НА

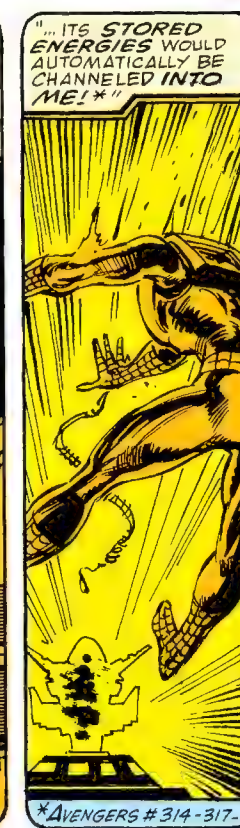
DID  
I DO  
THAT?

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

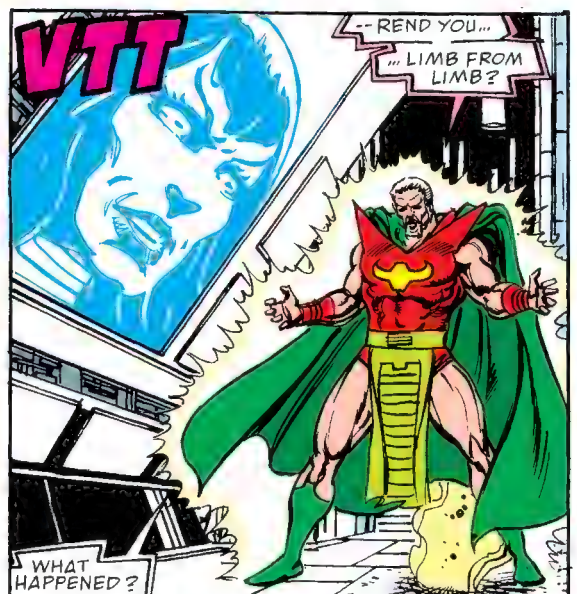
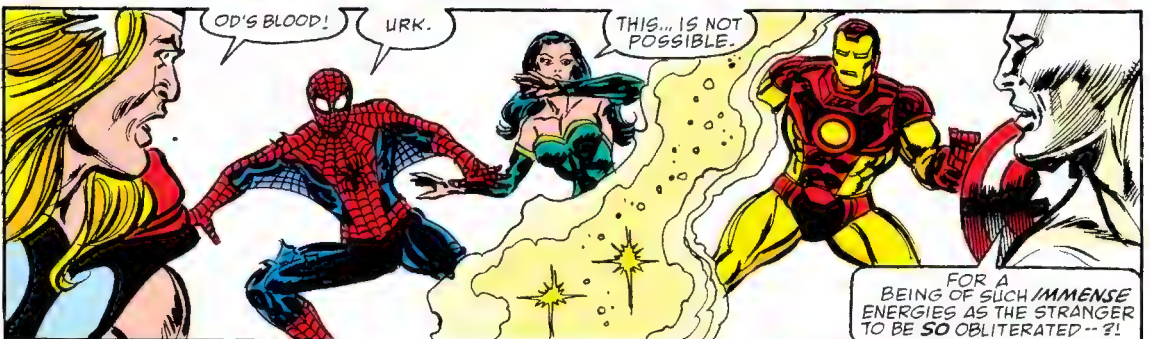
THE FRANKLY FABULOUS  
FINALE TO THE SPIDEY-  
NEBULA-STRANGER-  
EXTRAVAGANZA  
BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY--

FABIAN PAUL & TOM  
NICIEZA RYAN PALMER  
WRITER ARTISTS  
JACK MAX HOWARD  
MORELLI SCHEELE MACKIE  
LETTERS COLORS EDITOR  
TOM DeFALCO CHIEF  
SPECIAL THANKS TO  
TOM MORGAN FOR AN  
ELEVENTH HOUR ART ASSIST.

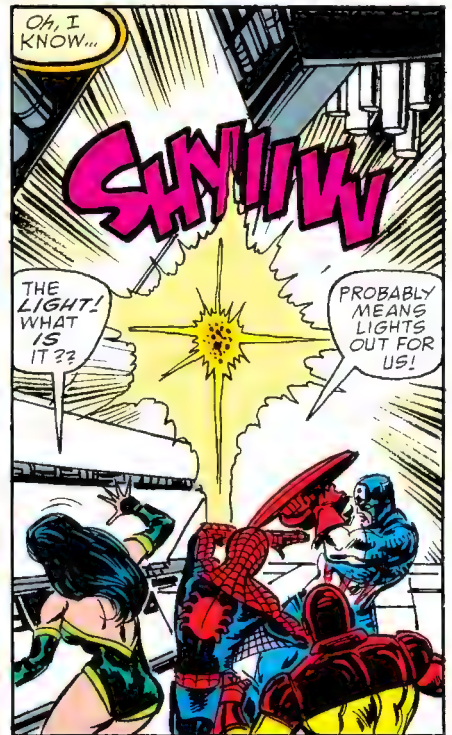
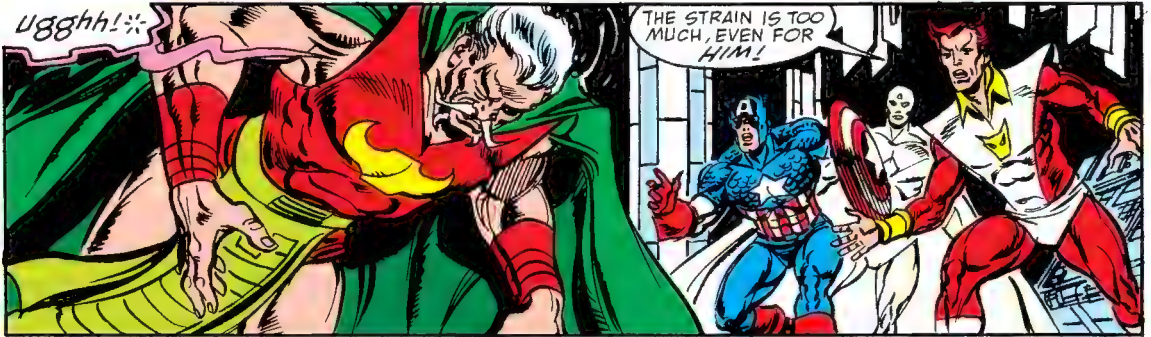
















HOW ABOUT IF WE BRING  
OUR CONFLICT BACK DOWN  
TO A PURELY  
PHYSICAL LEVEL?

I MUST SAY,  
IT DOES HAVE A  
CERTAIN--*VISCERAL*--  
--APPEAL, WOULDN'T  
YOU AGREE?

I KINDA  
LIKED THE  
*SONY*  
VERSION,  
MYSELF.

TO  
MANIPULATE  
MATTER WITH  
SUCH *FACILE*  
EASE--

--IS BEYOND  
EVEN MY OWN  
ABILITIES!

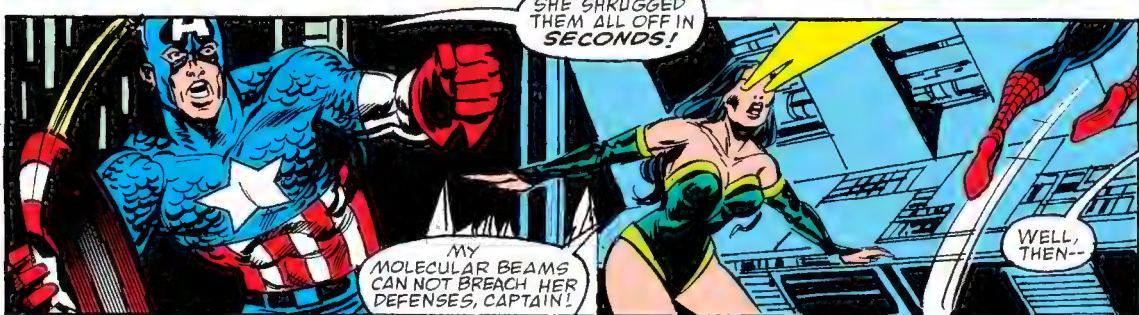
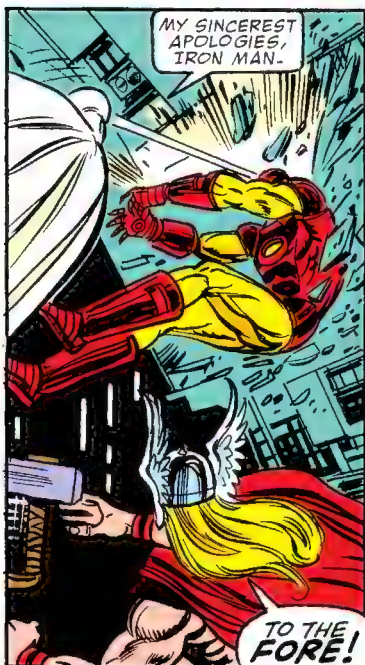
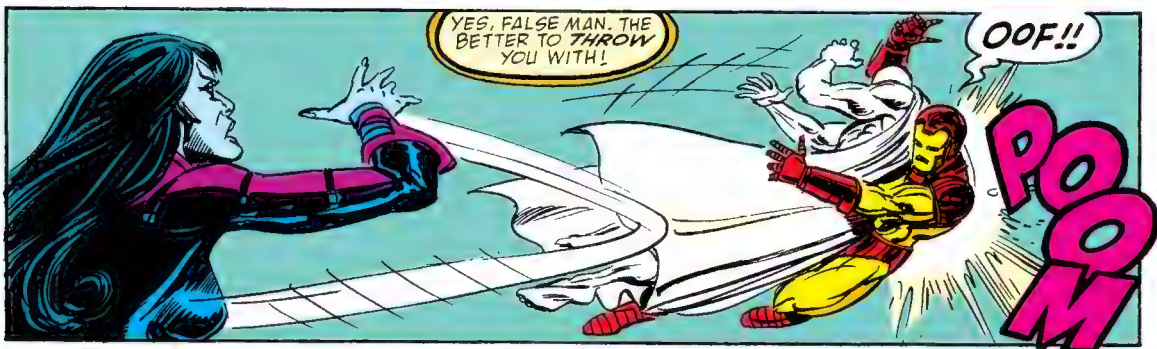
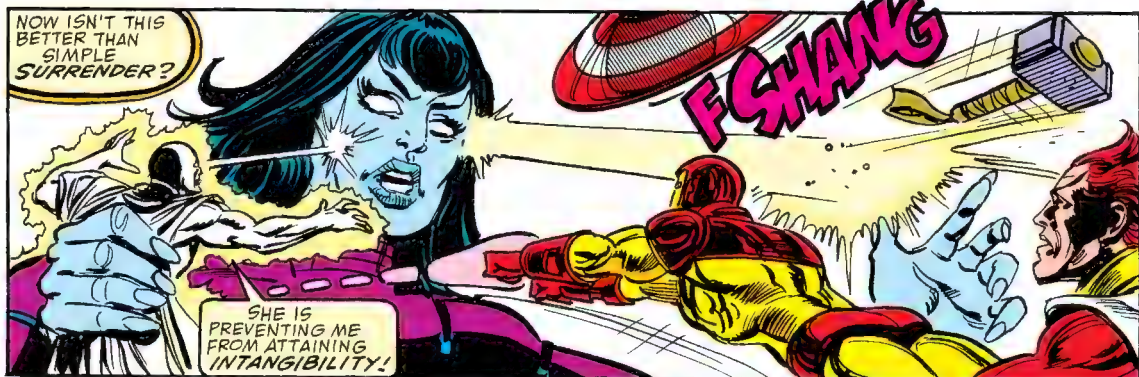
WELL,  
LUCKILY, SERPI,  
YOU'RE NOT  
FIGHTING NEBULA  
ALONE!

**AGREED!**

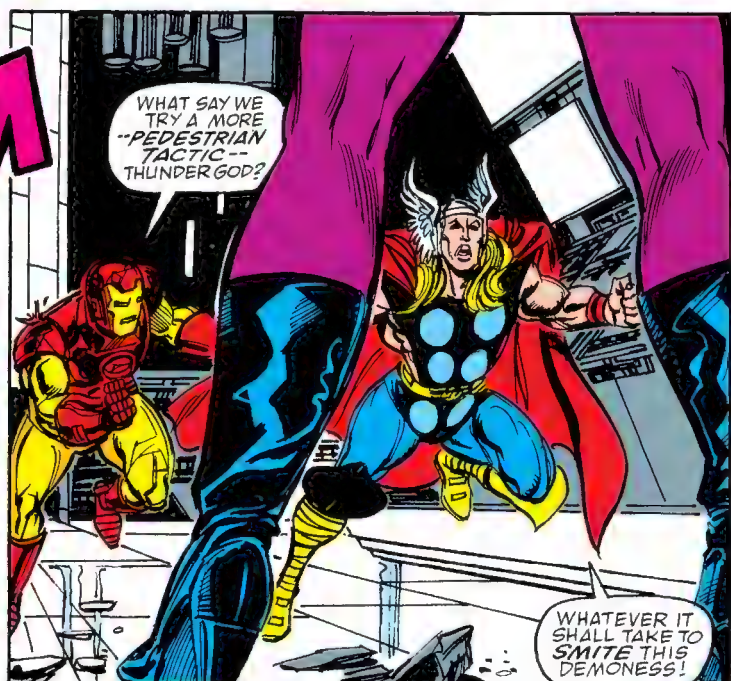
**AVENGERS ATTACK!**

HEART  
ATTACK IS  
MORE LIKE  
IT!

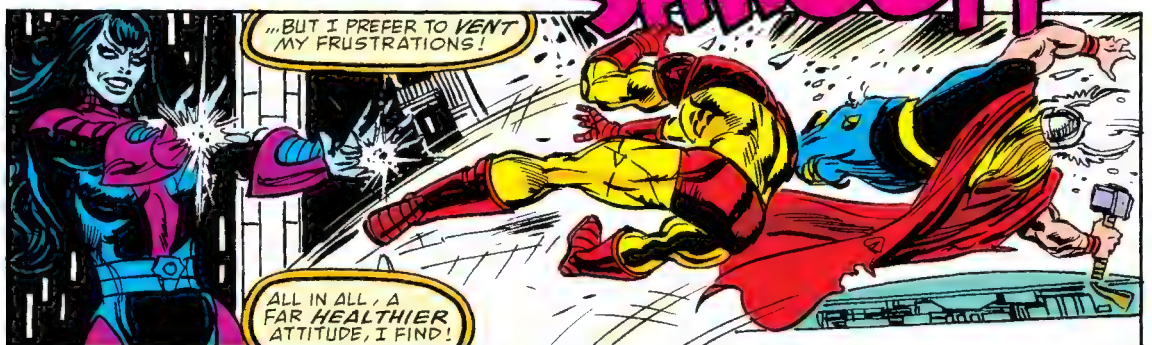
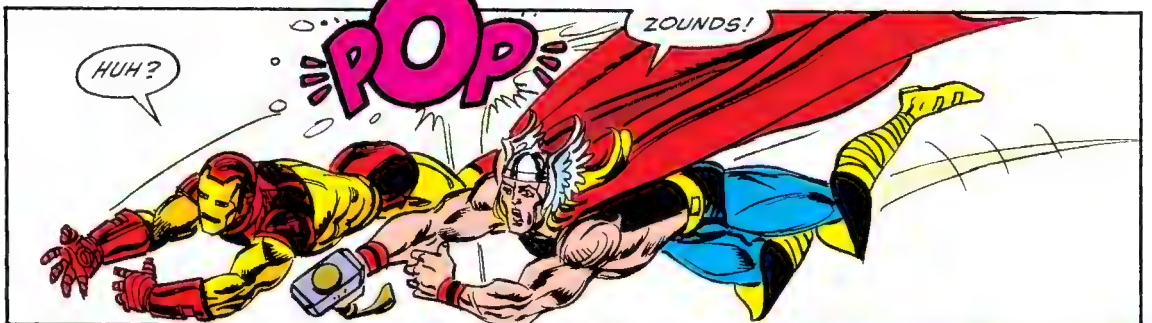
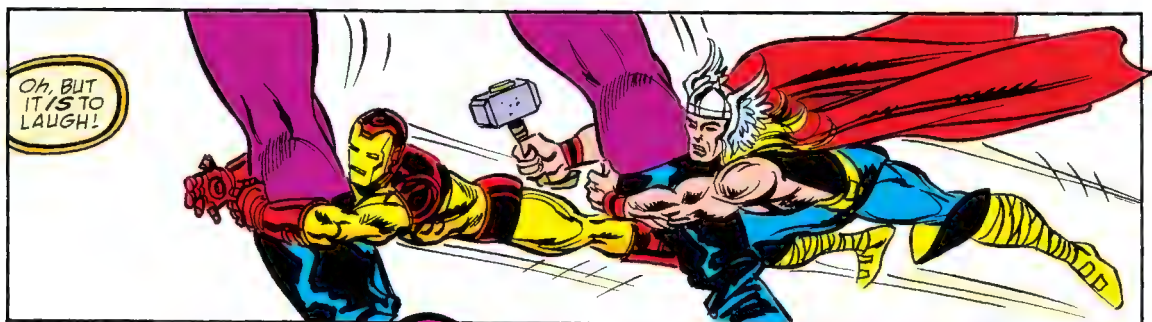




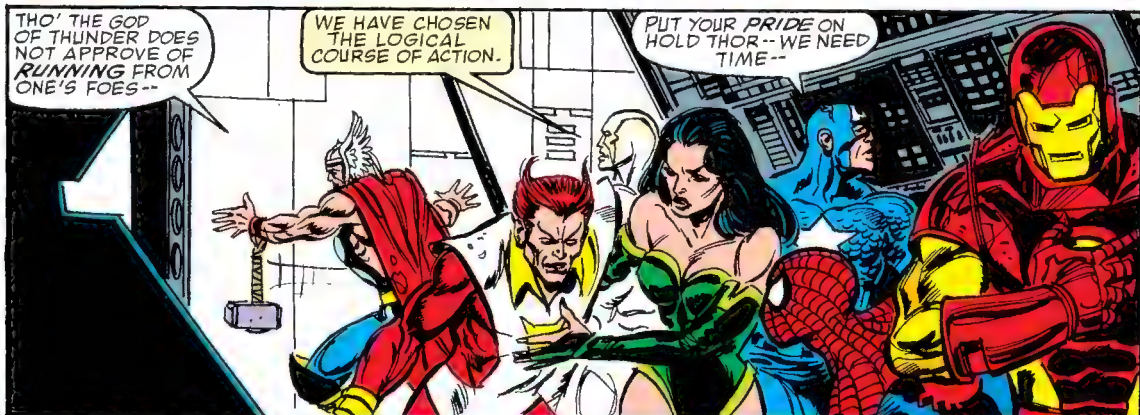
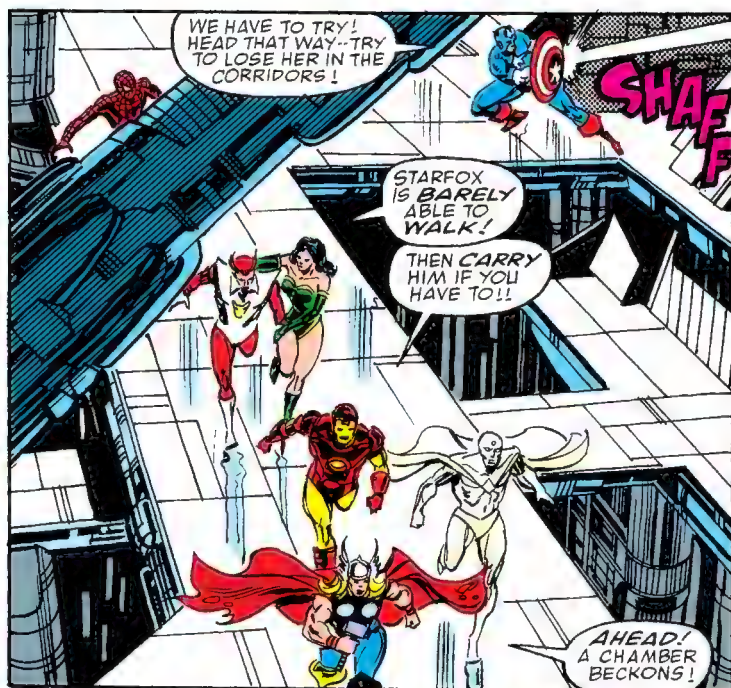
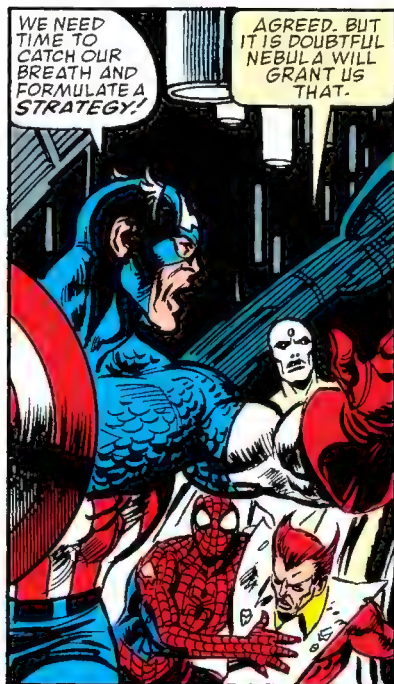




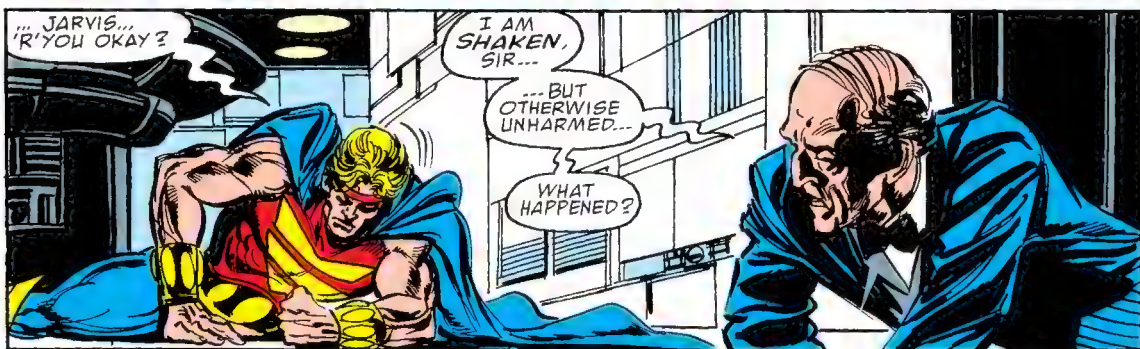
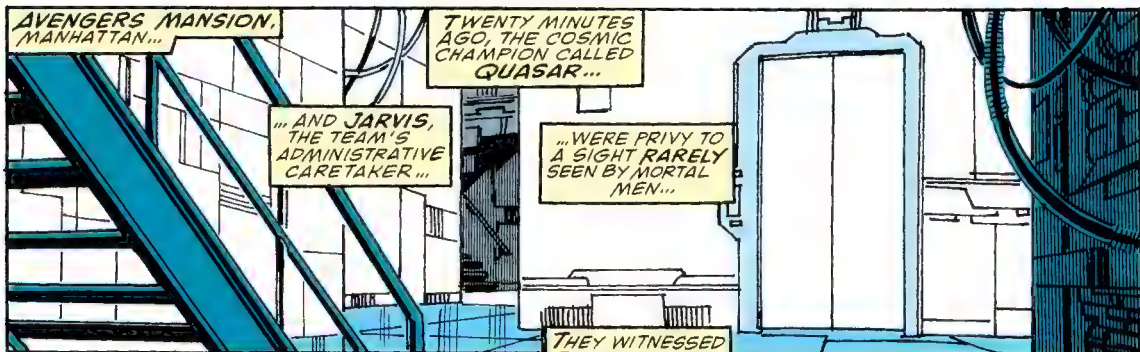




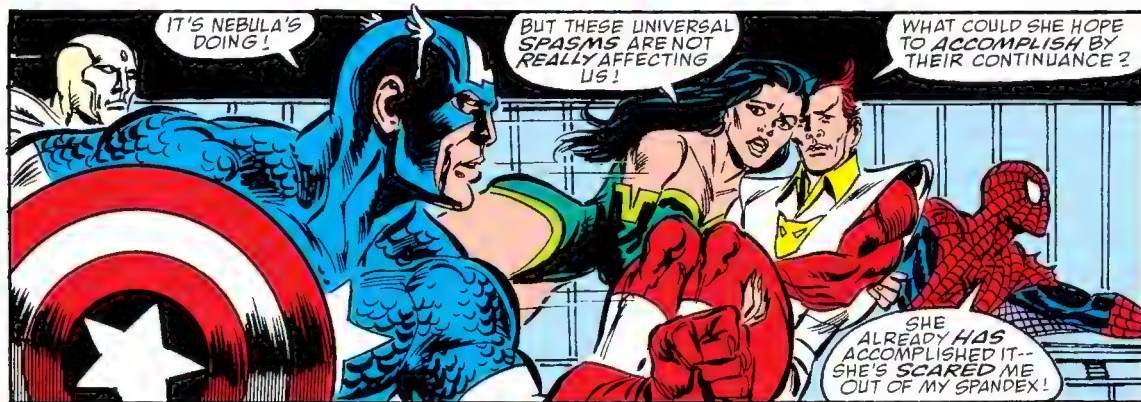
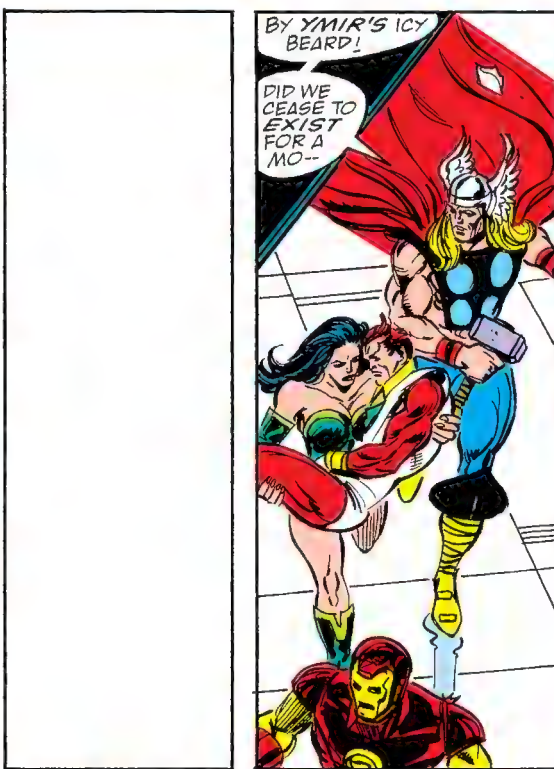
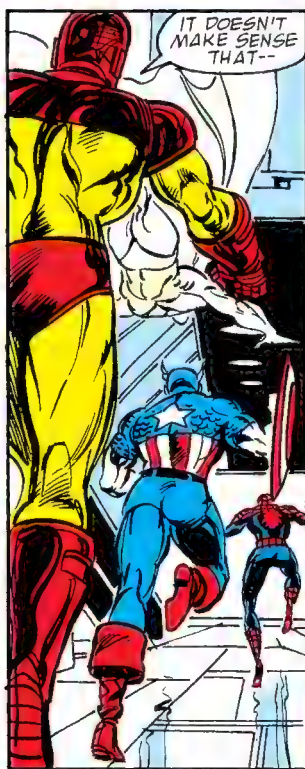














A MILE BEHIND THE RETREATING AVENGERS...



Ahhh... TO  
WILL THE  
UNIVERSE  
FROM  
EXISTENCE!

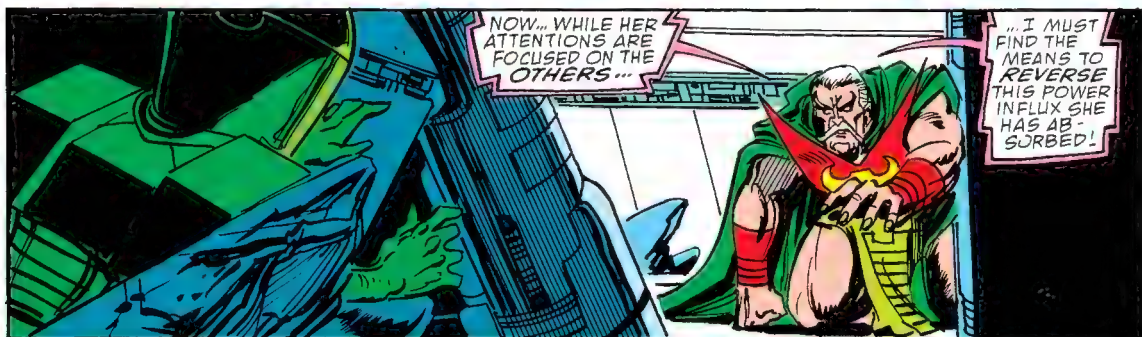
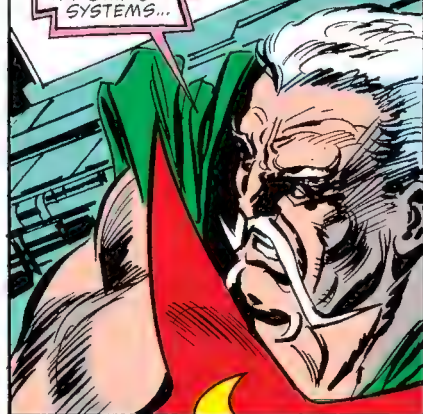
TRULY A  
PLEASURE  
UNMATCHED  
IN ALL MY  
LIFE!

BUT TO TOY FURTHER  
WITH THE MICE IN THE MAZE,  
I WILL AGAIN *BECOME*  
THE MAZE ITSELF!

**PLINK\***

NNNRGHH

SHE HAS  
REINTEGRATED  
HERSELF WITH  
MY SHIP'S  
SYSTEMS...



NOW... WHILE HER  
ATTENTIONS ARE  
FOCUSED ON THE  
OTHERS...

...I MUST  
FIND THE  
MEANS TO  
REVERSE  
THIS POWER  
INFLUX SHE  
HAS AB-  
SORBED!



RIGELLIAN!

I KNOW  
YOU ARE  
HERE!

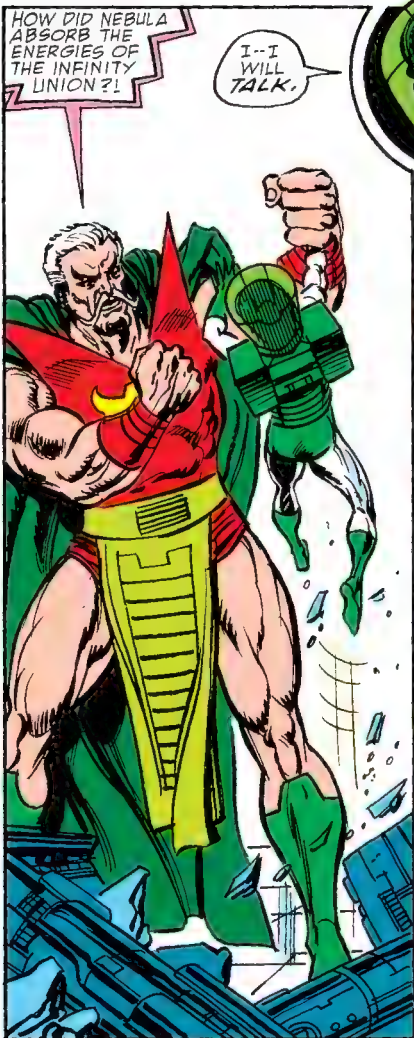
EEP!



NOW, YOU  
INTERSTELLAR  
REMORA--

--YOU WILL TELL  
ME HOW PETTY  
LARCENISTS SUCH  
AS YOURSELVES WERE  
ABLE TO DO  
THIS!





HOW DID NEBULA ABSORB THE ENERGIES OF THE INFINITY UNION?!

I--I WILL TALK.

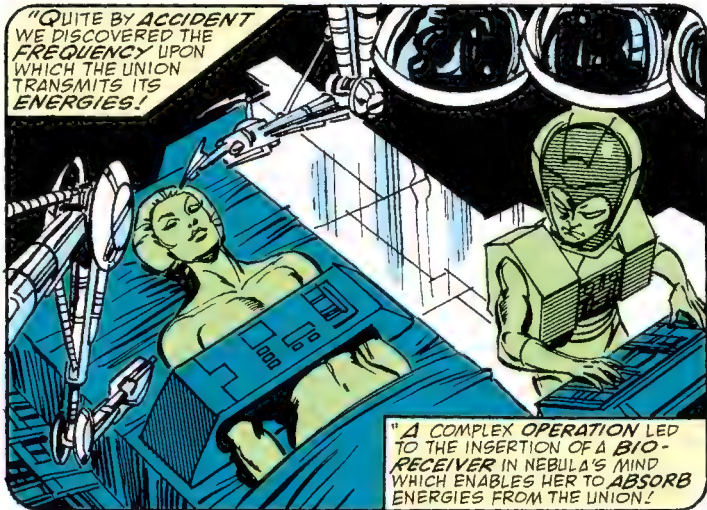


"BUT MORE SO BECAUSE I FEAR HER THAN YOU!"

"UPON PURLOINING THE INFAMOUS DEVICE FROM YOUR DOMAIN, WE PROCEEDED TO LABORIOUSLY STUDY IT.



"QUITE BY ACCIDENT WE DISCOVERED THE FREQUENCY UPON WHICH THE UNION TRANSMITS ITS ENERGIES!"

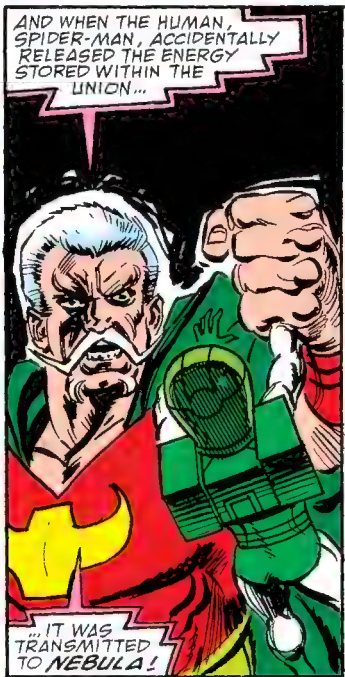


"A COMPLEX OPERATION LED TO THE INSERTION OF A BIO-RECEIVER IN NEBULA'S MIND WHICH ENABLES HER TO ABSORB ENERGIES FROM THE UNION!"



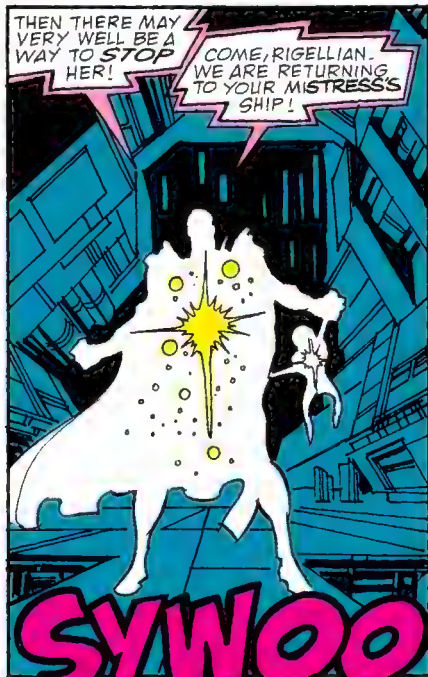
THE EXPERIMENTS WITH THE UNIVERSAL COMPRESSOR ON EARTH WERE DONE--

--SO THAT THE UNION WOULD HAVE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY TO ABSORB AND STORE.



AND WHEN THE HUMAN, SPIDER-MAN, ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED THE ENERGY STORED WITHIN THE UNION...

"IT WAS TRANSMITTED TO NEBULA!"

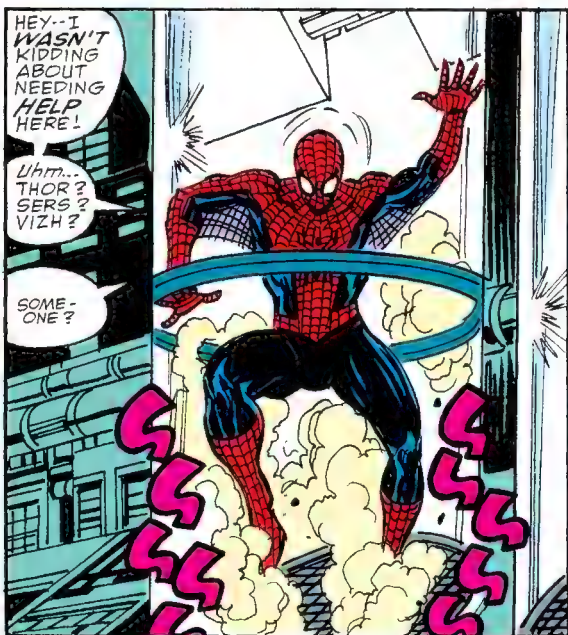
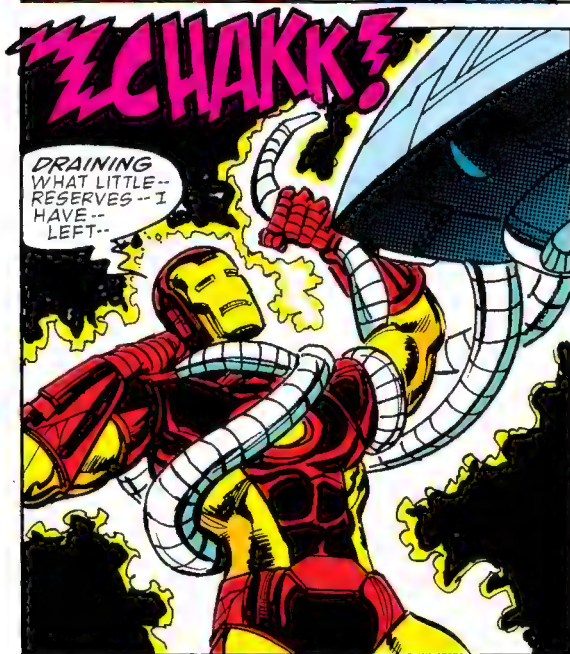


THEN THERE MAY VERY WELL BE A WAY TO STOP HER!

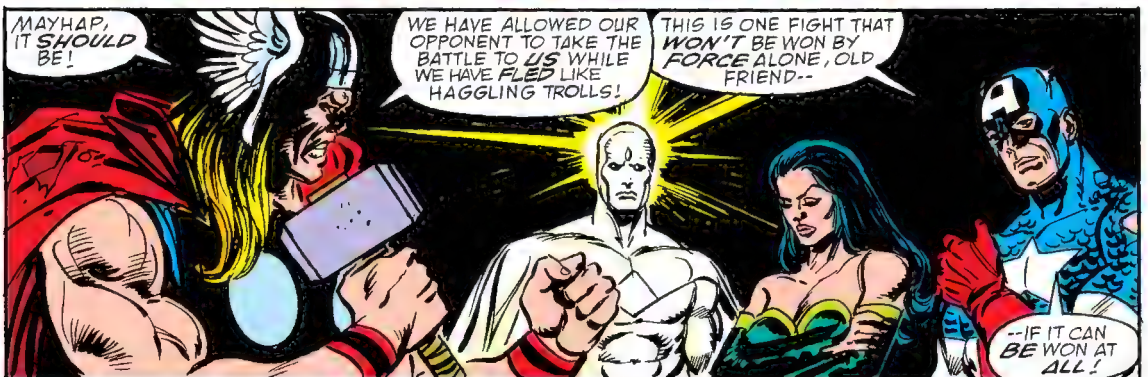
COME, RIGELLIAN. WE ARE RETURNING TO YOUR MISTRESS'S SHIP!

SYWOO

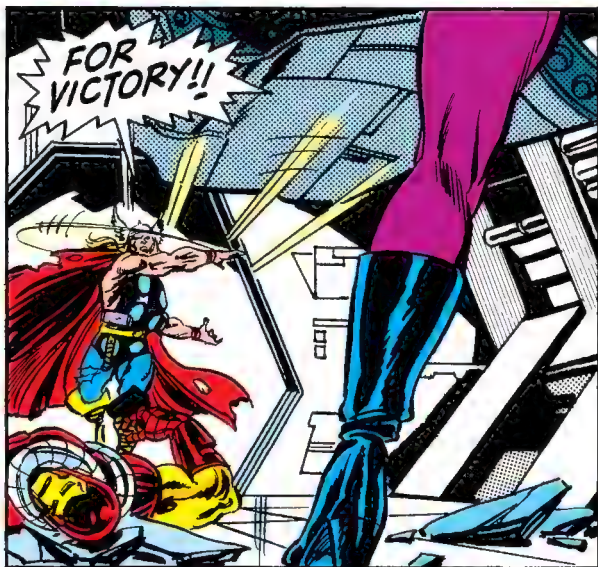
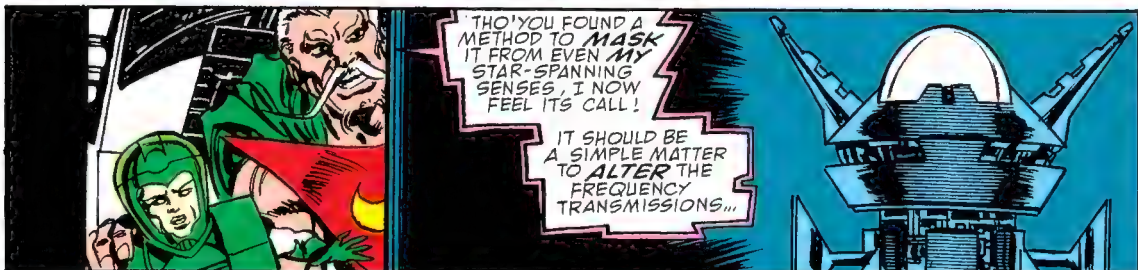




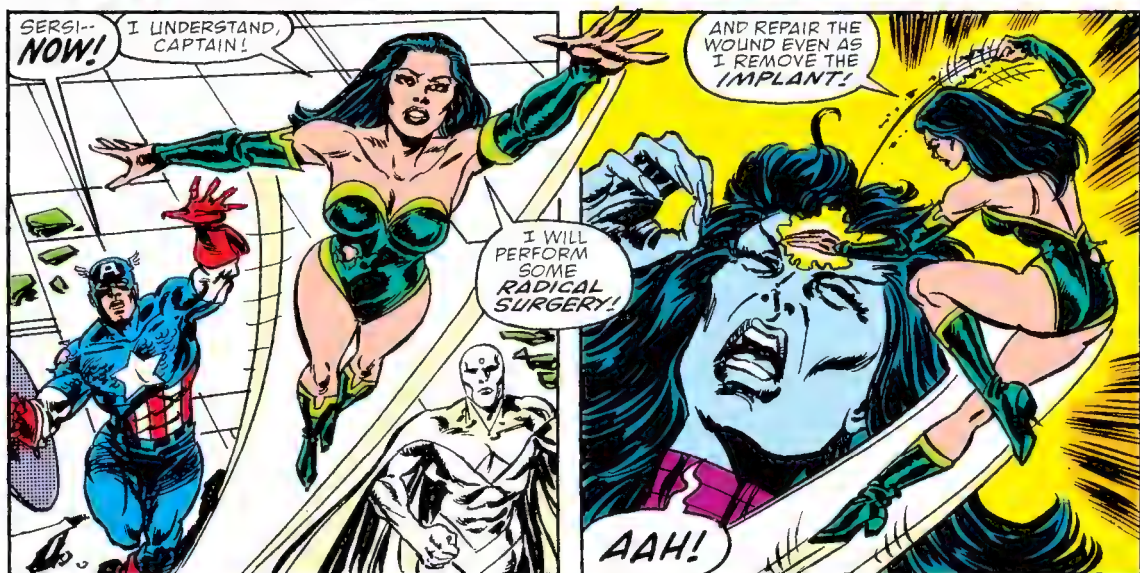
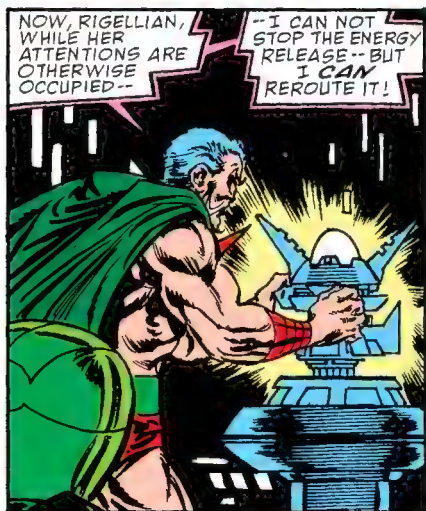
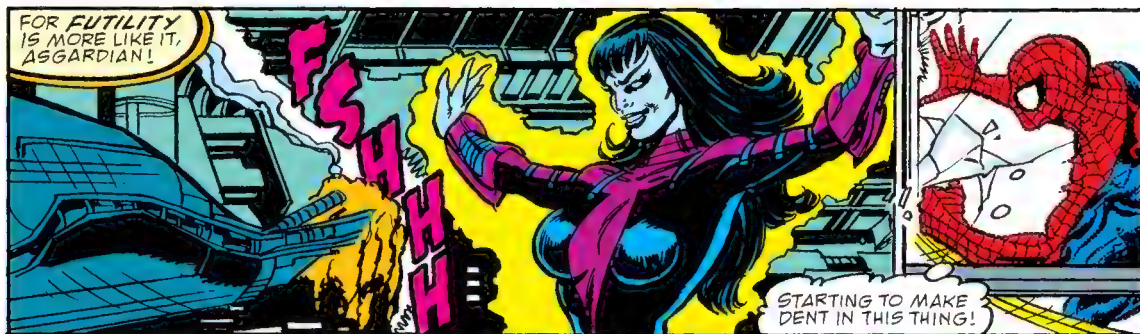




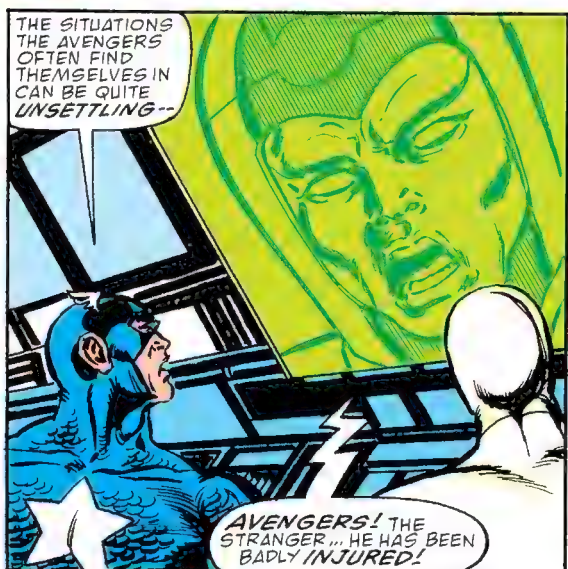
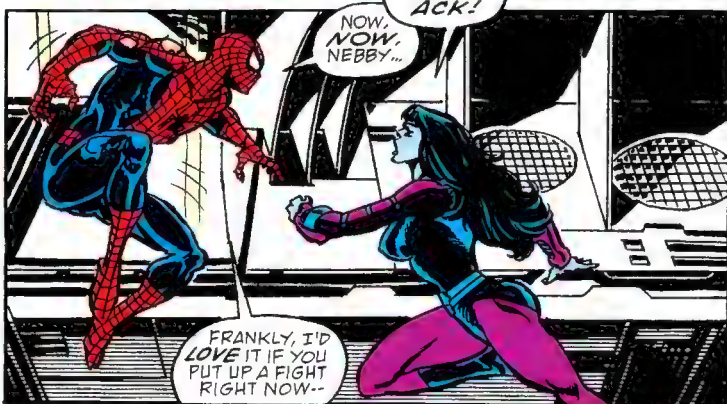
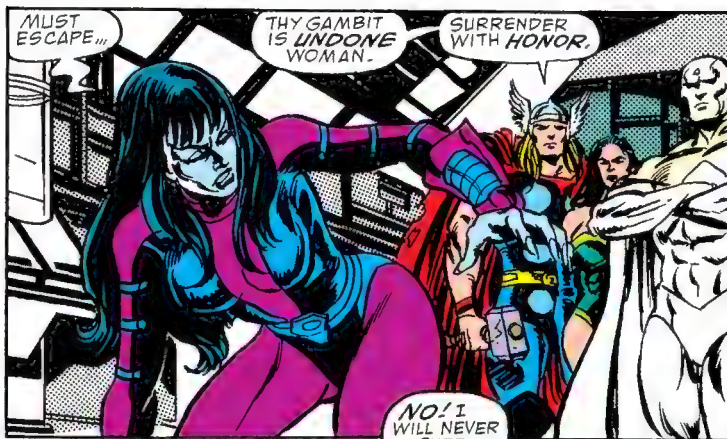




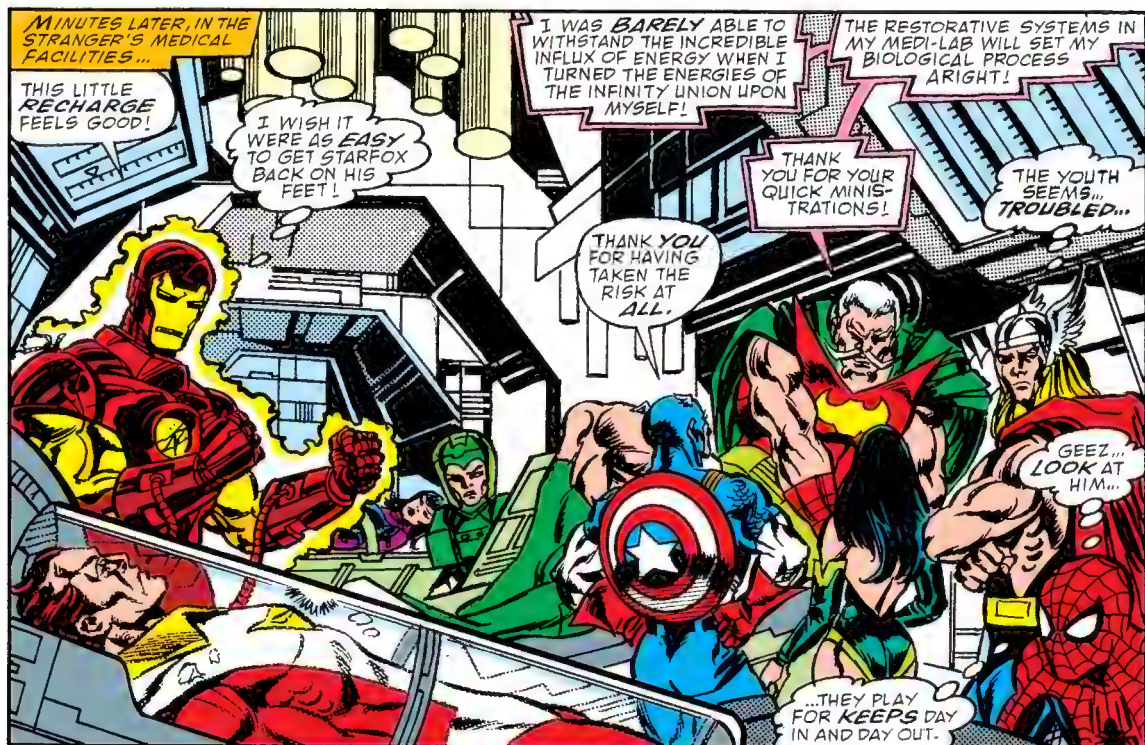












MINUTES LATER, IN THE STRANGER'S MEDICAL FACILITIES...

THIS LITTLE RECHARGE FEELS GOOD!

I WISH IT WERE AS EASY TO GET STARFOX BACK ON HIS FEET!

I WAS BARELY ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE INCREDIBLE INFLUX OF ENERGY WHEN I TURNED THE ENERGIES OF THE INFINITY UNION UPON MYSELF!

THE RESTORATIVE SYSTEMS IN MY MEDI-LAB WILL SET MY BIOLOGICAL PROCESS ARIGHT!

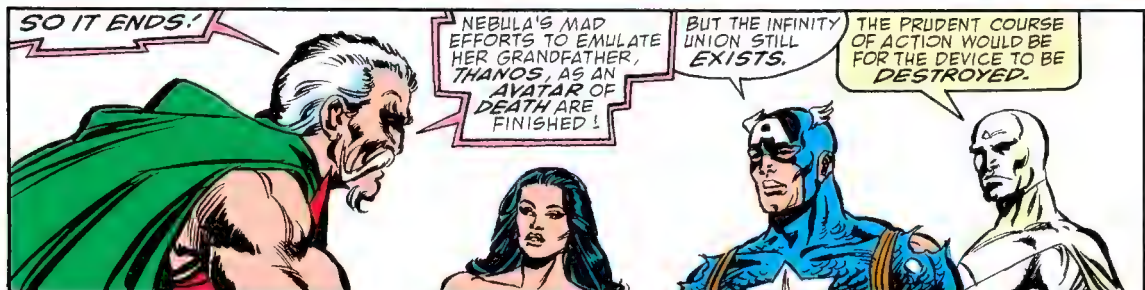
THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK MINISTRATIONS!

THE YOUTH SEEMS... TROUBLED...

THANK YOU FOR HAVING TAKEN THE RISK AT ALL.

GEEZ... LOOK AT HIM...

...THEY PLAY FOR KEEPS DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

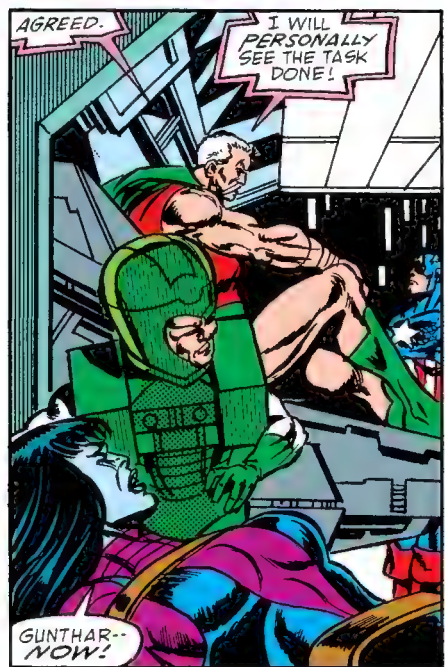


SO IT ENDS!

NEBULA'S MAD EFFORTS TO EMULATE HER GRANDFATHER, THANOS, AS AN AVATAR OF DEATH ARE FINISHED!

BUT THE INFINITY UNION STILL EXISTS.

THE PRUDENT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE FOR THE DEVICE TO BE DESTROYED.



AGREED.

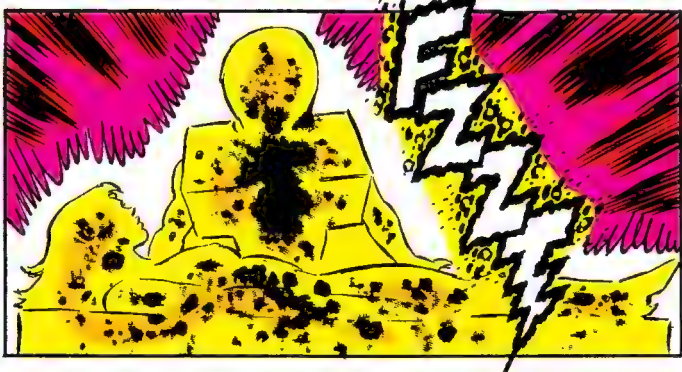
I WILL PERSONALLY SEE THE TASK DONE!

GUNTAR-- NOW!

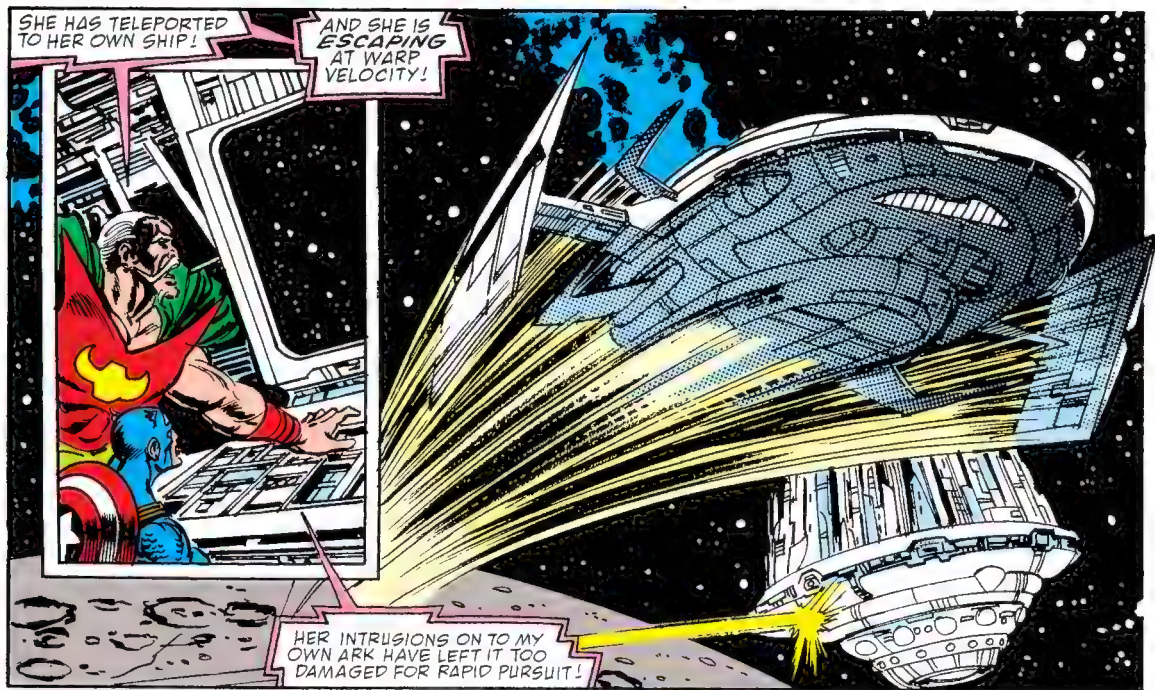


WAIT-- THE RIGELLIAN!

HE'S ACTIVATING SOME-THING ON HIS ARMOR!







SHE HAS TELEPORTED  
TO HER OWN SHIP!

AND SHE IS  
ESCAPING  
AT WARP  
VELOCITY!

HER INTRUSIONS ON TO MY  
OWN ARK HAVE LEFT IT TOO  
DAMAGED FOR RAPID PURSUIT!



THE CANNY  
WITCH IS  
GONE!

I  
WOULDN'T  
WORRY  
OVERLY  
MUCH.

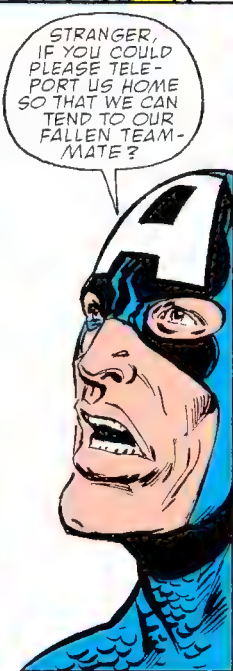
IT'LL BE A  
WHILE BEFORE  
SHE THREATENS  
ANYONE AGAIN.



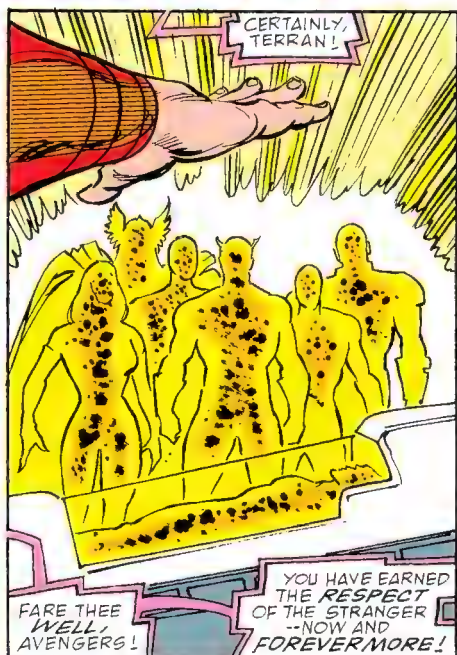
THIS DID NOT END AS  
I WOULD HAVE  
LIKED.

MAYBE  
WE  
SHOULD BE  
HAPPY WE  
SURVIVED!

MAYHAP  
NOT ALL  
OF US...



STRANGER,  
IF YOU COULD  
PLEASE TELE-  
PORT US HOME  
SO THAT WE CAN  
TEND TO OUR  
FALLEN TEAM-  
MATE?

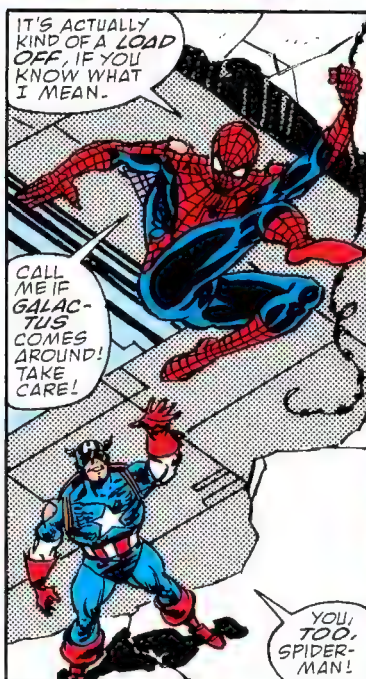
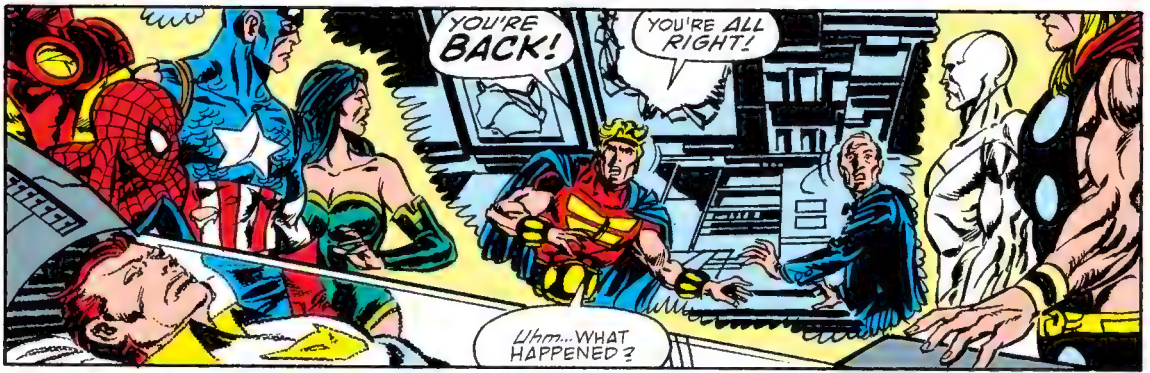


CERTAINLY,  
TERRAN!

FARE THEE  
WELL,  
AVENGERS!

YOU HAVE EARNED  
THE RESPECT  
OF THE STRANGER  
--NOW AND  
FOREVERMORE!



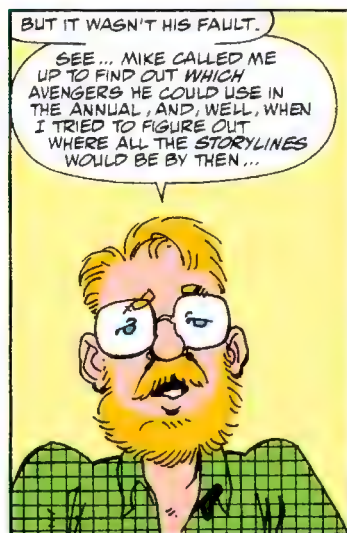
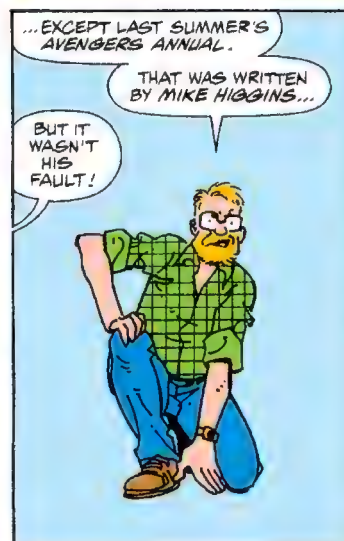
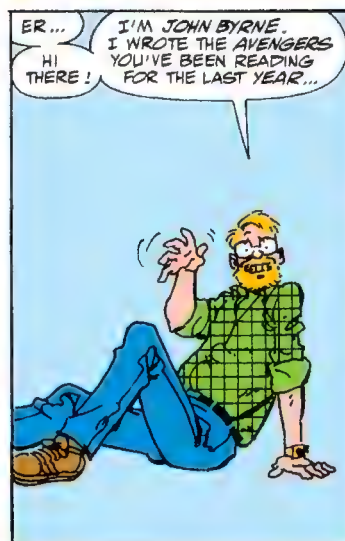
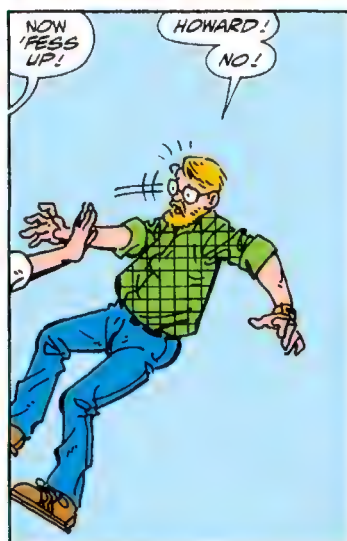
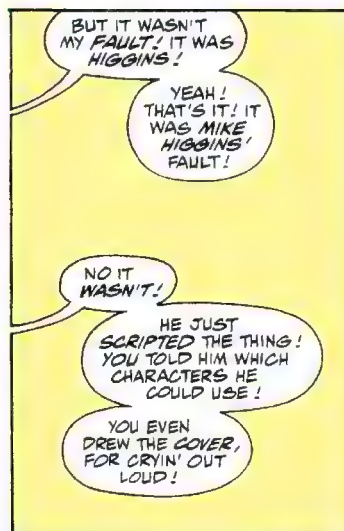


THE END



# AND NOW... HERE'S THAT IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT WE PROMISED YOU BACK ON PAGE SIX...\*

\*WITH APOLOGIES TO EDITORIAL...

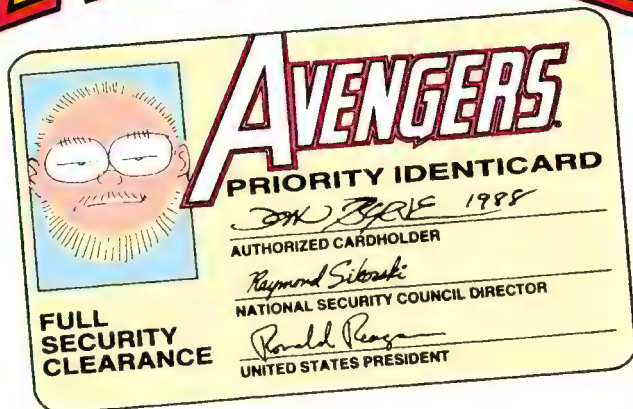
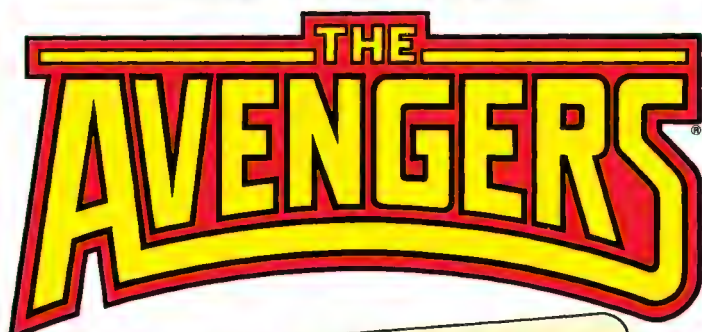


THIS EPILOGUE FROM AVENGERS WEST COAST #56 ADDRESSED A CONTINUITY ERROR IN AVENGERS ANNUAL #18.

WRITER & PENCILER: JOHN BYRNE • INKER: PAUL RYAN • COLORIST: BOB SHAREN •  
LETTERER: BILL OAKLEY • ASSISTANT EDITOR: LEN KAMINSKI • EDITOR: HOWARD MACKIE



## JOHN BYRNE JOINS



With issue 305 **John Byrne**, who has already taken on the jobs of writer and penciler for **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**, will become writer of the original **AVENGERS** series as well. John's arrival on **THE AVENGERS** will mark a new phase in how the two teams are run. No longer will there be a "base team" with a fixed membership on both the East and West Coasts. From now on, any of the many characters who have ever been **Avengers** will be available for missions with either the East or West Coast Avengers teams. John and **AVENGERS** editor **Howard Mackie**, compare the way the Avengers will now be run to the TV series, **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**: for each separate mission the team leader on each coast will select the available Avengers who are most qualified for this particular assignment.

John explains, "**Captain America** calls together anyone who's ever been an Avenger, and says, 'Enough of this base team stuff. We're going to have everyone on call all the time.' And everyone who was ever an Avenger says, 'Okay, we'll do what we can.' That includes **Reed** and **Sue** (**Richards**, who will be rejoining the **Fantastic Four**) and the **Beast** (a founder and current member of **X-Factor**), 'who, after all, have been Avengers in addition to being members of other teams.

"There'll be characters who appear pretty much every issue (in one of the two series), like **Captain America** and **Thor** on the East Coast, and the **Scarlet Witch** and the **Vision** and probably **Wonder Man** on the West Coast. But for the most part everybody's going to be shopping around all over the place. The **Black Panther** will turn up in the West Coast Avengers, and the **Vision** may be going back to the East Coast group for a while, or perhaps for the foreseeable future. So we'll have guys from both teams jumping around between the East and West Coasts," John says. "I'll crowd (one of the two books) every once in awhile. The first issue that I've plotted of the regular **AVENGERS** book has, I think, something like twenty-seven characters in it—including everyone who has been an Avenger who is currently available for service with the organization."

What is the difference, then, between the two **AVENGERS** books? "Well, the major difference will be that there will be different artists," John says, laughing, adding, "and I will be using different central characters. There won't be a great deal of difference, except I won't be doing the same storylines (in both books). For the most part, I won't be doing crossovers between the East Coast and West Coast books. There will be no more than one crossover story a year.

Maybe," John says. "Tops. Might not even be that. The West Coast guys do make an appearance in the first issue for this great meeting of all the members, and in the third issue, only because it takes place the same day in Marvel time. But it's not a crossover by any stretch of the imagination. It's more on the order of a guest appearance."

"So, essentially, **THE AVENGERS** will be bi-weekly, except it'll have different storylines in each book." Howard adds that having one writer on both **AVENGERS** and **WEST COAST AVENGERS** "will make the books more cohesive" and "make coordination between the two books much easier."

John plans to consult with his artists as to which Avengers they would like to have appear in the book, and take their recommendations into consideration. After all," he explains, "it's up to the artist to have fun with these things."

John's policy about Avengers villains is much the same as his policy on which heroes will appear in the book: Once an **AVENGERS** villain, always an **AVENGERS** villain. "I'm going to say that anyone who first appeared in **THE AVENGERS** is an Avengers villain who can be used there, like **Kang the Conqueror**," John also intends to use villains who have not battled the Avengers before.

The first antagonists he is using first appeared en masse in one of the very earliest issues of **THE AVENGERS**. "I'm bringing back the **Lava Men**, who are old funky favorites of mine." The **Lava Men** are a subterranean race who, as their name implies, can generate tremendous heat from their bodies. "And that," John continues, "as it turns out, grows out of something that happened in 'Inferno.' The story is about how most of the **Lava Guys** have fallen down dead in a very short amount of time recently, and it is because of something the Avengers did, although the Avengers were totally unaware of having done it. And it has to do with the origin of the **Lava Men** as stated in **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE**. So that's why it's a tie-in with 'Inferno,' because it has to do with demons.

"And then that will probably lead into something with the **Eternals**, because I want to deal with **Gilgamesh** and all that stuff **Walt** left me with." **Walt** is, of course, **Walt Simonson**, the previous regular writer on **THE AVENGERS**, who introduced the monster-slayer, **Gilgamesh**, also known as the **Forgotten One**, into the team. **Gilgamesh** is a member of the **Eternals**, a race of immortal super powered beings who were created by legendary Marvel artist **Jack Kirby** in the 1970s. "I think





Tigra becomes more feline in *THE WEST COAST AVENGERS*.

the Eternals are kind of funky," John says, "so I'll see what I can do with them. I don't know exactly what I'm going to do with them yet, but it's going to grow out of the fact that Gilgamesh is going to get very seriously stepped on in the *Lava Men* story, and the Avengers will be contacting his home base to help him." The **Deviants**, the grotesque race that have been opponents for the Eternals for millennia, and who originally created the race of **Subterraneans**, from which the *Lava Men* sprang, will probably also be turning up.

"That ought to cover at least the first eight issues. The *Lava Men* is a three-parter, at least. Beyond that, I would imagine the Eternals would kill at least three issues, and if I do throw in the Deviants, that's good for another couple of issues."

As for subplots, John says, "The stepping-on of Gilgamesh will be set up as a subplot. There will also be a running subplot with **Quasar** for as long as he's hanging around. He's sort of feeling like a fifth wheel, because he is the new kid on the block, and the way I'm thinking of playing him, he has a hard time finding anything to do, because he's just not that good at it yet."

"Above and beyond that, there'll be some stuff with **She-Hulk**. She'll be a fairly regular character, I think, mostly because I want to prove to the world I can write her two ways: I can write her straight and I can write her less straight," or in other words, in straight adventure stories in *AVENGERS* and in weird comedy adventures in the brand new *SHE-HULK* book.

As for *WEST COAST AVENGERS*, John reports that "I'm doing a fairly major mutant storyline involving the Scarlet Witch and the Vision, which begins in issue #47." Somebody is after the Scarlet Witch "because she's a mutant. It's nobody we've ever seen before, though"—here John's voice takes an ominous tone—"it's a character or characters who've been around a very long time."

The original **Human Torch**, who first appeared in comics fifty years ago, turns up in *WEST COAST AVENGERS* with issue #50, appropriately enough, and he will be staying with the team through his anniversary year.

Next comes a storyline concerning **Iron Man's** return to the Avengers, which is not as simple a matter as one might first think. "The return of Iron Man is going to have to be a major storyline in itself because of some of the complications," John explains. As a result of the "Armor Wars," in which Iron Man engaged in illegal activity in order to destroy super villains' battlesuits incorporating some of his own technological secrets—and even accidentally killed one of them—Iron Man was expelled from the Avengers. Subsequently, **Tony Stark**, who is secretly Iron Man, led the general public to think that the original Iron Man had been killed, and that there was now a new Iron Man. But the Avengers know that Tony Stark was the original Iron Man and that Stark is still alive. So when this "new" Iron Man applies for membership with the Avengers, John says, "We don't know whether they know it is (Stark), or whether they would automatically assume it is." If not, will they suspect it is Stark? And if so, what will they do about it?

"After that," John continues, "if all goes according to plans, will be a story involving survivalists in the Great Redwood Forest, which will feature **Toro's** wife and offspring." As longtime Marvel fans know, the now deceased Toro was the human partner of the original **Human Torch**. "I haven't decided on the gender of the offspring yet, but it'll probably be a teenage daughter. And that will feature a familiar Marvel villain, who has been around for quite a long time, although not as long as the unnamed previous villain."

The **US Agent**, otherwise known as **John Walker**, who recently and temporarily took over the role of Captain America from the original, **Steve Rogers**, will have joined the *West Coast Avengers* with issue #44, and he will continue to come in and out of the book, causing trouble in various ways. "**Tigra** will also be moving in and out of *WEST COAST AVENGERS*," John states, "becoming more and more feline. I'll be continuing with the mess that I've dropped Wanda and the Vision into." The android Vision has become much more robot-like, with severe repercussions for his

marriage to the Scarlet Witch. "I'll do some subplotty stuff with Wonder Man. On the *West Coast*, Hawkeye and **Mockingbird** will be getting back together, and **Henry Pym** and his former wife, the **Wasp**, will be trying to determine the state of their own relationship. They're sort of drifting around each other in funny ways," John says. "The Wasp will also be getting a new look, or to be more precise, an old look made new again. In the latest issue I've given her a variation on one of her oldest costumes, just to be funky, with the funny little 'hat.' It doesn't have a point on it this time; I thought that was a bit much. But still, the look is much the same as it was back in the early sixties. You know, with the big cowlick of hair sticking out the front. You know, the Wasp!"

John adds that "There'll probably be at least a cross-continuity if not a crossover with **X-FACTOR** since I'm doing an **X-FACTOR** fill-in," as both writer and penciler. "What was going to be a guest appearance by the **Beast** (in *WEST COAST AVENGERS*) may turn into that story. That's down the road a little."

John has no plans to add yet more members to the Avengers, aside from **US Agent** and the original **Human Torch** joining the *West Coast* group. "There's nobody left, really," he explains. "There are **Daredevil** and **Spider-Man**, but I don't see them in the Avengers, somehow. Just about everybody who is anybody in the Marvel Universe is in the Avengers."

THE *AVENGERS*, of course, is one of the Marvel series created by Marvel founding fathers **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** and has featured many classic stories over the decades. Asked if he feels any trepidation about taking over a series with such a grand tradition, John Byrne says, "Yeah, it is the Avengers. Yeah, it is a little bit scary." But *AVENGERS* editor Howard Mackie looks forward to 'a new age' for THE *AVENGERS* and THE *WEST COAST AVENGERS* with John Byrne at the writing reins. "John will be doing the big cosmic storylines that THE *AVENGERS* should have. The Avengers are the 'World's Mightiest Heroes' and John will show that."

—Peter Sanderson



**MARVEL**

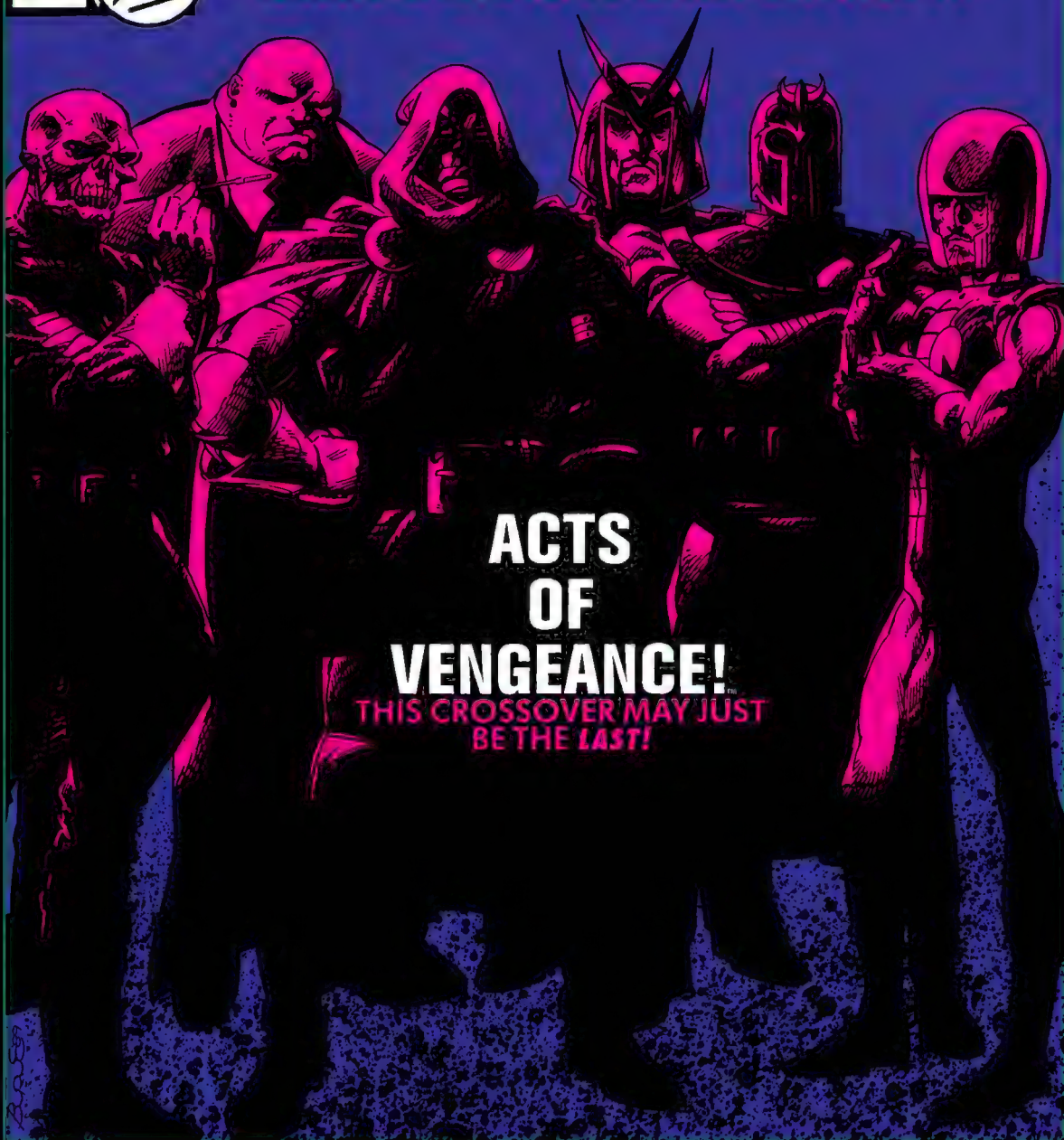
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**BRING ON THE BAD GUYS...**



## ACTS OF VENGEANCE!

**THIS CROSSOVER MAY JUST  
BE THE LAST!**



# ACTS of VENGEANCE!

A day that many had long dreaded finally comes to pass. Six of the most dangerous men on Earth at last put aside their differences and agree to work together towards a common goal. **Doctor Doom**, the **Red Skull**, **Magneto**, the **Kingpin**, the **Mandarin**, and the **Wizard**, each of whom is one of the most formidable menaces alive, have now teamed up to destroy Earth's super heroes once and for all. And the method they choose is a simple one. They will send super-villains up against heroes who have never encountered them before, who do not already know how to defeat them. And these six masterminds plan to engulf the heroes of Earth with a virtual tidal wave of unfamiliar but utterly deadly opponents.

This is the premise of Acts of Vengeance, this year's fall crossover that spans virtually every Marvel super hero comic for three months. Unlike previous fall crossovers, which centered on the mutant titles, this one emphasizes **THE AVENGERS** and its related series. In fact, the true motive behind the "Acts of Vengeance" conspiracy will prove to be directly connected to the history of the **Avengers** themselves.

Although he did not come up with the name of the crossover, the basic idea for Acts of Vengeance was the brainchild of **John Byrne**, who writes both **AVENGERS** and **AVENGERS WEST COAST** and draws the latter. "It originated with the Powers That Be sitting around saying we want to do something a la 'Inferno,' but let's have the thrust of it start in **THE AVENGERS** this time," John recalls. "They cooked up a Super Powers Registration Act that Congress was going to pass, and the heroes dealing with this was going to be the centerpiece of this 'Acts of Vengeance.' When I heard about this, I said, 'That can be a good, strong subplot within something bigger and better. Why don't we come up with something bigger and better?'"

"So we all went out to lunch, a lot of ideas went back and forth, and I said, 'Look, what is the thing that the readers seem to love better than anything else?'" The answer seemed to be to have as large a number of super heroes as possible fighting as large a

number of super-villains as possible. "And that's how it evolved, starting out by saying let's have everybody fight everybody, and then coming up with a good, logical reason for everybody to fight everybody."

"Out of that came the Change Partners idea. So the main movers and shakers behind all of this encourage villains to attack heroes they don't usually attack. So, just to pick a name out of the hat, they say to **Doctor Octopus**, 'Spider-Man is always handing you your head, so why don't you go fight somebody who doesn't know your riff? Why don't you go fight **Power Pack**?'"

"Hopefully out of this mixing and matching, we'll get some new ways to look at some of these guys, both the heroes and the villains," John says.

John says he hopes that all the creative teams on the different books will use the Acts of Vengeance framework to launch some truly major events in their own series. "I'm using it in **THE AVENGERS** to give them a new headquarters," John reports, "because the thing that launches Acts of Vengeance as far as the Avengers are concerned is that **Hydro-Base** [where their headquarters is located] gets sunk, and everything goes *glub*, and they have to build themselves a new headquarters. And in **AVENGERS WEST COAST**, I'm getting the jumping off point for what I'm sadly forced to refer to as my **Dark Scarlet Witch** story, in which Wanda is again recruited by **Magneto**, and gets a new costume and a new slant on life." Lest anyone forget, let us remind you







that the Scarlet Witch is actually Magneto's daughter. She has a nervous breakdown because of everything that's happened to her over the last year, just in time for Magneto to come along and say, 'Hi, there, come back to me.' Which she does." John will also be featuring the **Blob**, **Pyro**, and **Avalanche**, all members of **Freedom Force**, in **AVENGERS** #312, the **U-Foes** in **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #53 and the **Mole Man** in #54. The Mandarin and the Wizard, two of the core members will themselves battle the Avengers in **AVENGERS** #313.

The entire Acts of Vengeance story is launched in **AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT** #26, with a breakout from the Vault, the maximum security prison for super-powered criminals, by such villains as the Wizard, the **Whirlwind**, and the **Molten Man**. That same week the masterminds behind the scheme send **Graviton** to deal with Spider-Man in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #326.

Before Spider-Man is through with the Acts of Vengeance in his three titles, he will contend with the **Trapster**, **Titania**, Magneto, the **Brothers Grimm**, **Goliath**, **Sebastian Shaw**

(formerly of the **Hellfire Club**), the adamantium robot, **Tess-One**, **Dragon Man**, and the **Sentinels**. As if poor Spider-Man did not have enough problems trying to keep from being killed by all of these menaces, he will also discover that he has developed mysterious new powers that are so enormous that it is difficult for him to control them. The secret behind these powers will emerge over the course of the Acts of Vengeance serial.

One of the masterminds behind the entire conspiracy, the Mandarin, will play a more direct role in **X-MEN** #256 and #257, as he transforms **Psylocke** into a pawn in his schemes for power. The **New Mutants**, meanwhile, clash with the literally explosive villain, **Nitro** in issues #83 through #85 of their magazine, and **X-Factor** contends once again with their archfoe, **Apocalypse**, in issue #49 of their series. In issue #19 of his own series, **Wolverine** will fight **Sub-Mariner's** savage adversary, **Tiger Shark**.

**DAREDEVIL** features members of the Royal Family of the **Inhumans** as guest stars during Acts of Vengeance, which is lucky for **Daredevil** since he will need all the help he can

get to defeat his opponent, **Ultron**, a robot made of indestructible adamantium. Ultron shows up in **DAREDEVIL** #275 through #277.

In **DOCTOR STRANGE** Earth's sorcerer supreme contends with mystically powered menaces that, strange as it may seem, he has never battled in all his years as a Marvel character. Spider-Man's foe, the **Hobgoblin**, is up first, in issue #11 of **Dr. Strange's** new series, complete with the demonic abilities he gained in **Inferno**. The **Enchantress** from **THOR** turns up next, in issue #12, followed by the warrior king from another dimension, **Arkon the Imperion**, in issue #13. Meanwhile Strange still has to contend with his public exposure of his life as a sorcerer by the book written by **Morgana Blessing**, and with the reappearance of his brother, **Victor**, who has become a vampire.

**Mark Gruenwald** will be tying the two series he writes, **QUASAR** and **CAPTAIN AMERICA**, directly in with what is going on in the **AVENGERS** titles. Although **QUASAR** only has issues that tie in directly with Acts, #5 and #6, they will be full of villains including **Venom**, **Klaw the Master of Sound**, the **Red Ghost**, the **Living Laser**, and in particular, **Thor's** long-time foe, the **Absorbing Man**. **Captain America** will go up against **Iron Man's** old-time enemy, the **Controller**, while also having to deal with his own eternal nemesis, the **Red Skull**; and the Skull's new henchman, **Crossbones**, both of whom will play major roles in the series over the next year.

Furthermore, **CAP** #365 through #367 will feature a back-up serial that actually stars a villain in the lead, namely, the **Cobra**, the current head of the **Serpent Society**, who is now out to prove himself in battle against his former partner, **Mister Hyde**. "Hyde really spooked him in the past after they severed their relationship," Mark points out. "Hyde has vowed to destroy him. The Cobra wants to go after Hyde and finally lay his fear of him aside."

The **Punisher** takes on a very different sort of villain for him when he clashes with Doctor Doom in issues #28 and #29 of his series. **Moon Knight** goes up against Captain America's anarchist foe, **Flag-Smasher**, and his subversive organization, **ULTIMATUM**, in issue #8 of his new book. The **Hulk** meets up with the **Grey Gargoyle** in issue #363. And **Iron Man** will face the **Wrecker** and a long-missing villain, **Chemistro**, the man who can turn one element into another.

The mighty **Thor** faces one of the most powerful of all **X-Men** villains,





the virtually unstoppable **Juggernaut**, in issues #411 and #412 of his magazine. In these issues writer **Tom DeFalco** and penciler **Ron Frenz** also introduce a brand-new team of teenage super heroes who help Thor out in this titanic battle. These are the **Young Warriors**, featuring a number of familiar characters from the past. There is the mutant, **Firestar**, who starred in her own limited series some years back, and the **Sub-Mariner's** powerful cousin, **Namorita**, who recently showed up in the Atlantis Attacks annuals. Then there is **Richard Rider**, star of the old NOVA series, who now calls himself **Kid Nova**, and **Vance Astro**, the future **Guardian of the Galaxy**, now known as **Marvel Boy**. **Speedball the Masked Marvel** shows up as well, as does a brand new character with the ominous name of **Night Thrasher**.

Pay attention to the debut of the **Young Warriors** in **THOR**, because plans are already in the works for them to receive their own series in the near future.

**Alpha Flight** will be facing the **Scorpion**, **Nekra**, and the **Asp** in issue #79, while in **CLOAK AND DAGGER** #9 Doctor Doom, **Fenris**, and a brand new version of the **Jester** are scheduled to show up.

The proposed Super-Powers Registration Act, which would affect all super-powered characters, not just mutants, will be a major subject of the **FANTASTIC FOUR** Acts of Vengeance issues, #334 through #336. These will mark the debut of **Walter Simonson** as the **FANTASTIC FOUR's** new writer, and will be penciled by **Rich Buckler**. (Walter himself takes over the art with issue #337.)

Walter wanted to do something different with his Acts of Vengeance issues. "The writer's brief in the Acts of Vengeance stuff is you can't use the villains that go with your title. My feeling is that a lot of the really good, classic Marvel villains come from the FF And, of course, those are the guys I can't use, because I'm writing the FF So I decided to go in the opposite direction. I went through **MARVEL UNIVERSE** and I have taken out around fifteen of Marvel's most unlikely villains." So Walter will be pitting the FF against a huge assemblage of bad guys that include the **Armadillo**, the **Beetle**, the **Constrictor**, the **Eel**, **Hydro-Man**, **Madcap**, **Mad-Dog**, **Man-Ape**, **Mr. Hyde**, **Nitro**, **Orka**, the **Owl**, **Plantman**, the **Shocker**, **Stilt-Man**, the **Vanisher**, the **Water Wizard**, and **Whirlwind**. And along with all of these there will be a very formidable menace indeed, the **Super-Adaptoid**, who can duplicate any super-power.

The whole storyline comes to a conclusion with an all-out battle between the Avengers and the six masterminds in **AVENGERS WEST COAST** #55, in which Magneto finally makes his move against the Scarlet Witch. And by this time it will be clear who is the true mastermind behind Acts of Vengeance, who has been manipulating even the six core villains!

Mark Gruenwald notes that "In Acts of Vengeance not only are we getting all the major villains and a whole bunch of minor ones, but we're also seeing something that I think has built-in fan appeal: the old mix and match syndrome." Fans can see match-ups between heroes and villains that they might never have expected, that hold the potential for plenty of thrills and surprises. "There are possibilities for us to see things that we've never seen before," Mark says. "That in itself is exciting. It should be good."

—Peter Sanderson





## Interview

Exclusive Interview With *The Wizard*

*A candid conversation with the criminal who helped mastermind the Acts of Vengeance, a plot which threatened the lives of every super hero last fall.*

Perhaps he's not one of the most threatening-looking super-criminals you'll ever have the misfortune of running across, but don't judge the Wizard by his appearance. In fact, the Wizard believes that the less dangerous he looks, the more danger he'll pose.

The Wizard began his criminal career in direct response to the advent of superhuman adventurers. Previously, he had been one of the most prominent celebrities of his day, known for his advanced scientific theories, his mastery of chess, and his "magic" escape routines. Because of his intellectual achievements, he became known in the media as the "Wizard," a name which he now prefers over his given name.

The Wizard was recently captured by the Avengers during the culmination of the Acts of Vengeance. He was incarcerated in the Vault, the maximum security prison for super-powered criminals located in the Colorado Rockies. Although the Wizard has no inherent super powers, federal authorities had limited success holding him for any length of time in conventional penitentiaries. Indeed, the

Wizard escaped from the Vault shortly before the Acts of Vengeance began.

As the official chronicler for all activities involving superhumans, we were granted an exclusive interview with the imprisoned Wizard. To conduct the interview, we sent staff writer Glenn Herdling to the Vault. There he was thoroughly searched before meeting the criminal mastermind. Guardsman Prime *Frank Ensign* watched over them like a hawk throughout the conference.

**MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW: You escaped from this prison once before. Do you think you can do it again?**

**WIZARD:** They have yet to build the prison that can hold me for any length of time. This time it may take a little longer, but you'll soon see...

**MYIR: Isn't it true that someone helped you the last time?**

**WIZARD:** It wasn't help I'd solicited, or needed. I wasn't in the cell five minutes when this fellow appeared out of nowhere and offered to release me in exchange for a favor. I chose to play along, and the next thing I knew, I was clothed in my Wizard garb,

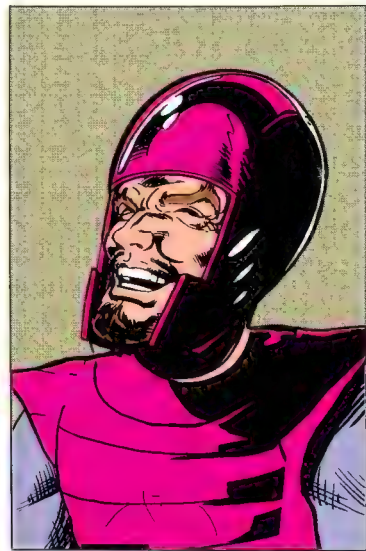
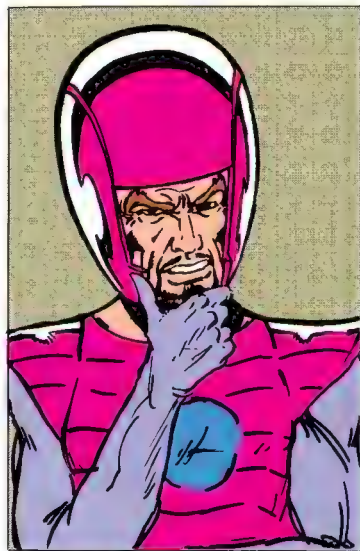
complete with all my weapons!

**MYIR: What was the favor he asked?**

**WIZARD:** He asked that I join (I believe the colloquial term is "team up with") a select group of superhumans in an effort to eliminate all of Earth's self-proclaimed super heroes.

**MYIR: Who were these superhumans?**

**WIZARD:** Latveria's deposed monarch *Victor Von Doom*, a man who proclaimed himself the Nazi Leader *Red Skull*, the mutant terrorist *Magneto*, and that Genghis Khan reject, *Mandarin*. Anyway, I, along with my colleagues, devised a simple method to destroy our long-time enemies. We sent other super-powered antagonists against these "heroes" who had never encountered them before. Since they did not already know how to defeat them, we assumed they'd be overwhelmed. The fellow who broke me out of this cage focused his attention on the AVENGERS. We later learned why when we discovered his identity—which I suspected all along, of course. The others just assumed he was some run-of-the-mill mutant with the power to warp dimensional





## Interview

matrices—a feat which I mastered long ago—and that he had a vendetta against the Avengers. So this same man set up an extradimensional headquarters which we could all reach via portals from our various bases of operations. And that's where we manipulated our "Acts of Vengeance."

**MYIR:** What was your first objective in this scheme?

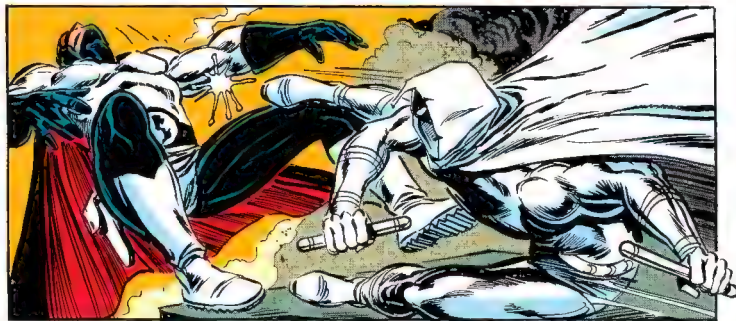
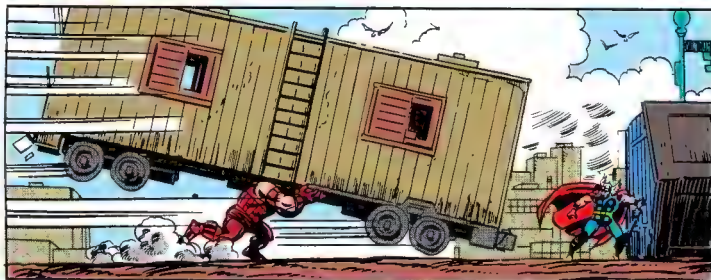
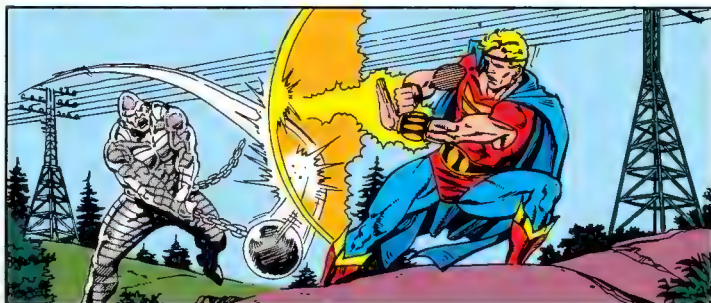
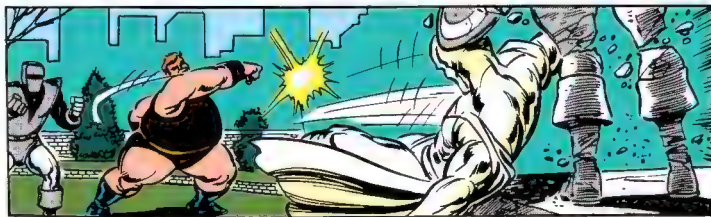
**WIZARD:** While many of the Avengers were away battling prisoners I had released from the Vault, we set upon the task of destroying Hydrobase. Doom's robots accomplished that deed within mere moments; the Avengers' former headquarters is now nothing but trash at the bottom of New York Harbor.

**MYIR:** Did any of the Core members have personal objectives?

**WIZARD:** Let me just clarify something here. Although it was a pleasure associating with gentlemen whose intellectual capacities almost equal my own, we were never what you might call a "team." The "Core" nomenclature was granted to us by your esteemed colleagues in the press. It's not as if we at all resembled the *Masters of Evil*. As it turned out, we were all in this scheme for personal gain, and none of us was foolish enough to trust the others. Magneto, for instance, used the plan to lure his daughter, the *Scarlet Witch*, away from the WEST COAST AVENGERS and into his service once again. Doom was trying to discover a way to tap into the mysterious power that *Spider-Man* had acquired—a wild card which none of us could have foreseen. The Mandarin played a more direct role by transforming a mutant telepath into a pawn in his schemes for power.

**MYIR:** Did you physically participate in any of these Acts of Vengeance yourself?

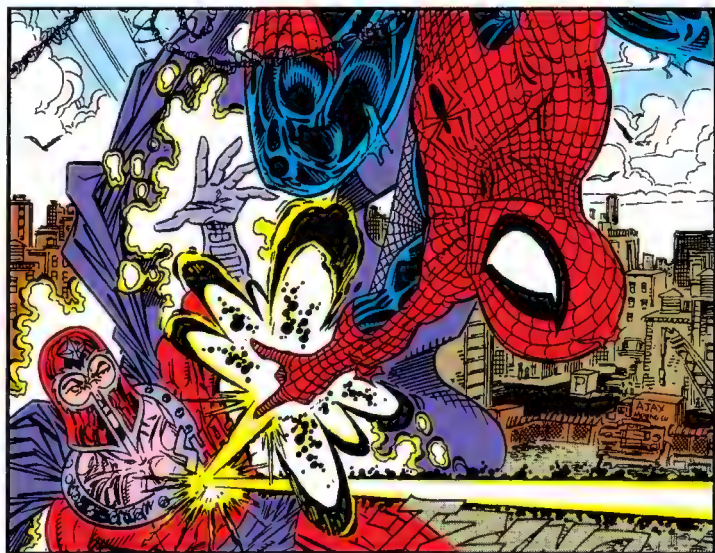
**WIZARD:** At one point, yes. After we lured the *Blob*, *Pyro*, and *Avalanche* (all members of the government-sponsored FREEDOM FORCE) into attacking the Avengers, the Mandarin and I confronted the group ourselves. I sacrificed myself for my partner by allowing them to capture me during that encounter. I was subsequently imprisoned, but I summoned a dimensional matrix of my own to grant me freedom. After the Acts of Vengeance were officially over, I attempted to escape these wretched walls with the help of *Klaw*, the master of sound. But



Various "Acts of Vengeance" were performed throughout the country.



## Interview



Spider-Man repels the attacking Magneto, utilizing his new "cosmic" powers.

that armor-clad idiot, *Iron Man*, performed an Act of Vengeance of his own and stopped us.

**MYIR:** Were the Acts of Vengeance intended to be contained solely within the United States?

**WIZARD:** Yes, at first. But the idea was so appealing that it spread like wildfire. We received reports of unfamiliar foes staging contests with which we had nothing to do. On the island of Madripoor, for instance, *Tiger Shark* was witnessed attacking two super-powered opponents with whom he is not usually associated. In exchange, the twins from Madripoor called *Fenris* attacked *Cloak* and *Dagger* in New York. The INHUMANS came all the way from their home on the moon and helped *Daredevil* defeat the thirteenth incarnation of *Ultron*, a robot composed of indestructible adamantium. Oh, we also dispatched the *Scorpion*, *Nekra*, and the *Asp* to deal with ALPHA FLIGHT in Canada. I never did hear how that turned out.

**MYIR:** How did your fellow conspirators get along?

**WIZARD:** (laughter) Talk about poor draft choices! Our benefactor put a Nazi war criminal and a Jew whose family was killed in a concentration camp on the same team. You can imagine the sparks that flew when that one came to a head! As for the rest of us, well, my teammates were always trying to outdo one another. If they had used a little more teamwork,

like I had in my old days with the FRIGHTFUL FOUR, this plan might have succeeded better than it did. Of course, conflicts erupted among the other players in our little game as well, with so many of them stepping on each other's toes and invading each other's territories. The *Shocker*, the *Rhino*, and *Hydro-Man* staged a free-for-all in the middle of Times Square while the *Cobra*, the SERPENT SOCIETY's current leader, tried to prove himself in battle against his former partner, *Mister Hyde*.

**MYIR:** So, this super-criminal team-up was a flop because the participants didn't cooperate with each other?

**WIZARD:** I would not call it a flop. Of course, none of the heroes were permanently defeated, but it certainly was fun watching them all trying to determine just what was going on. And just as there were rifts among our factions, the super-goodies also had some spectacular quarrels in their ranks. *Captain America* had to subdue his longtime ally, the *Sub-Mariner*, whom we had brainwashed. The cosmic *Quasar* fought the cosmic Spider-Man, and the results were, well, cosmic! And speaking of cosmic, I understand Spider-Man actually punched the *Hulk* into orbit!

**MYIR:** In your opinion, then, the plan wasn't a failure?

**WIZARD:** Not at all. We cleverly coincided the Acts of Vengeance with the government hearings for the Super

Powers Registration Act. With all the property damage the Acts were causing, the super heroes were certain to receive a lot of bad press nationwide. In fact, we tried to restrain the FANTASTIC FOUR from testifying during those hearings by sending a barrage of second-rate superhumans against them, but they seemed to handle them with apparent ease. Not surprising since they've dealt with me on innumerable occasions in the past, and I'm no second-rater. Unfortunately, Congress didn't pass the Super Powers Registration Act. That would have made the whole operation worthwhile.

**MYIR:** You still haven't mentioned the identity of the real perpetrator behind these Acts.

**WIZARD:** I guess it's no secret anymore. It was the same man who broke me out of the Vault, none other than *Loki*, *Thor*'s brother, or half brother, rather. It's no wonder that a so-called god needed me to head up his entire scheme. It seems that *Loki* was the initial force behind the formation of the Avengers, and he has been ruining that day ever since. Each of my colleagues thought he was some subversive fool, when he was actually manipulating them all right from the start. I, however, had surmised his true identity. What a laugh he must have had. God of mischief, indeed! He received his just deserts, though, when the Avengers followed me from my prison cell to the Core headquarters through one of his dimensional matrices. That was where we met our ultimate defeat, and *Loki* received his brother's swift hand of justice.

**MYIR:** You almost sound relieved.

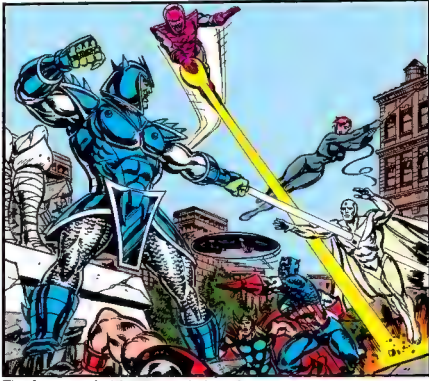
**WIZARD:** As I told you right from the beginning, I hate super heroes with a passion, no matter which side of the law they're on. Gods are included in that lot. They diminish the achievements of normal human beings. I used to be a popular celebrity until the advent of the "super hero." No one really cares about inventors or chessmasters anymore. They want to see a man whose body alights in flame.

**MYIR:** You see yourself as a missionary for the common man?

**WIZARD:** Well, of course. That's why I wanted to do this interview—to spread my word, so to speak. If you can get my message across, I'll grant you another interview as soon as I break out of this cage. By my calculations, that should be within about three weeks.

—Glenn Herdling/  
New York





The Avengers battle to save their park

## Acts Of Marketing

At least one person benefited from this year's break-out at the *Vault*, the prison for super-powered criminals. The resulting chaos—dubbed “Acts of Vengeance” by the national news media—caused dozens of deaths and uncounted injuries to bystand-

ers during pitched battles between the criminals and their super-powered nemeses, as well as wreaking an estimated \$800 million in property damage around the country.

But for Edwin Durge of the Hollywood area, Acts of Vengeance was little more than a short but sweet marketing opportunity.

Durge, a 54 year-old street-corner salesman, was quick to realize that a mass escape from the Vault would quickly become an event of national prominence. He avidly followed the story as it broke, searching for what people in his profession call an “angle.”

He found it when he first heard that the national emergency was being referred to as “Acts of Vengeance.”

“I have a friend who owns a print shop, you know, silk-screen and buttons and stuff,” he explained. “So I managed to get a little loan—and it wasn’t from no bank, mind you—and started printing up these buttons and shirts.”

Each button, shirt and bumper sticker Durge printed said, simply, “I survived Acts of Vengeance.”

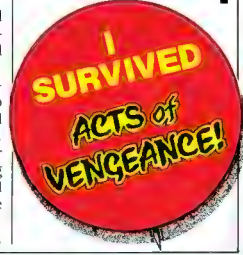
The items sold like wildfire, and soon he was able to distribute them to almost all areas affected by the battles. “I was really cookin’ there for a while,” Durge said, shaking his head slightly. “Then, well . . . I guess irony can be pretty ironic sometimes.”

As his sales were peaking,

Durge ordered a much larger number of the novelty items. They were delivered to his warehouse in Hollywood, which was promptly destroyed during a battle between the Avenger, *Hawkeye*, and a flying, unusually-armed criminal called *Boomerang*. The loss of the items cost Durge his entire profits, to within a startling \$6.

But Durge doesn’t seem disheartened. “S’all right,” he says, sitting back on his familiar street corner. “This dog had his day. But I’m gonna keep my eye on that Vault . . .”

In that regard, Durge will most assuredly not be alone.



MARVEL: 1989 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW ARTICLE BY EVAN SKOLNICK



ACTS OF VENGEANCE OMNIBUS HC VARIANT  
BY JOHN BYRNE & THOMAS MASON



ACTS OF VENGEANCE CROSSOVERS OMNIBUS HC VARIANT  
BY JOHN BYRNE & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR



# ACTS OF



# V E N G E A N C E<sup>TM</sup>

**SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER FROM  
MARVEL®—THE VILLAINS GET THEIRS...**



AVENGERS #305 AND WEST COAST AVENGERS #46 ANNOUNCED A "FAVORITE AVENGER" POLL; THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED IN AVENGERS #311'S LETTERS PAGE.

We're curious. Who is your favorite Avenger? We recently held a poll in SOLO AVENGERS asking the readership who they wanted to see as the continuing lead feature of the book and the runaway majority voted for Hawkeye. But since we held the poll in Hawkeye's solo mag, we now realize that there's bound to be a pro-Hawkeye bias. But if we hold the poll in the two full-team AVENGERS books, what might the results be then? What we'd like you avid Avengerphiles to do is to answer the three questions below (on your own paper, of course—we don't advocate cutting up your comics!) and send them to AVENGERS POLL, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. The results will appear in AVENGERS #310 and WEST COAST AVENGERS #51, and may affect future line-ups of Earth's Mightiest Heroes. Let your voice be heard. Vote today!

## 1989 FAVORITE AVENGER POLL

My favorite Avenger, past or present, who does NOT have his/her own magazine is: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite Avenger, past or present, who is featured in his/her own magazine is: \_\_\_\_\_

The Marvel Super Hero who's never been an Avenger, I most wish to join up is: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Age (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

HOWARD MACKIE, editor ..... DAVID WOHL, assistant editor

AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF OUR 1989 FAVORITE AVENGER POLL!

### FAVORITE AVENGER WHO IS CURRENTLY FEATURED IN HIS/HER OWN MAGAZINE:

1. CAPTAIN AMERICA: 521 VOTES
2. IRON MAN: 279 VOTES
3. SHE-HULK: 258 VOTES
4. THOR: 222 VOTES
5. HAWKEYE: 178 VOTES
6. MOON KNIGHT: 110 VOTES
7. HULK: 86 VOTES
8. QUASAR: 26 VOTES



### FAVORITE AVENGER WHO DOES NOT HAVE HIS/HER OWN MAGAZINE:

1. WONDER MAN: 217 VOTES
2. BLACK KNIGHT: 208 VOTES
3. BLACK PANTHER: 137 VOTES
4. VISION: 112 VOTES
5. BEAST: 93 VOTES
6. DOCTOR PYM: 91 VOTES
7. HERCULES: 67 VOTES
8. SCARLET WITCH: 65 VOTES
9. CAPTAIN MARVEL: 60 VOTES
10. MOCKINGBIRD: 58 VOTES
11. SUB-MARINER: 56 VOTES
12. WASP: 53 VOTES
13. STARFOX: 42 VOTES
14. TIGRA: 41 VOTES
15. FALCON: 38 VOTES
16. BLACK WIDOW: 36 VOTES
17. GILGAMESH: 32 VOTES
18. QUICKSILVER: 29 VOTES
19. USAGENT: 28 VOTES
- 20 (TIE): MOONDRAGON: 16 VOTES
- MS. MARVEL/BINARY: 16 VOTES
- YELLOWJACKET: 16 VOTES
21. HELLCAT: 12 VOTES
- 22 (TIE): MR. FANTASTIC: 8 VOTES
- FIREBIRD/ESPIRITA: 8 VOTES
- 23 (TIE): JOCASTA: 7 VOTES
- DR. DRUID: 7 VOTES
- 24 (TIE): MANTIS: 5 VOTES
- SWORDSMAN: 5 VOTES
25. MR. IMMORTAL: 4 VOTES
26. INVISIBLE WOMAN: 2 VOTES

### FAVORITE CANDIDATE FOR AVENGERS MEMBERSHIP:

1. SPIDER-MAN: 375 VOTES
2. DAREDEVIL: 136 VOTES
3. ANT-MAN: 78 VOTES
4. DR. STRANGE: 53 VOTES
5. WOLVERINE: 51 VOTES
6. SPIDER-WOMAN: 50 VOTES
7. SILVER SURFER: 46 VOTES
8. BATTLE STAR: 44 VOTES
9. SPEEDBALL: 34 VOTES
10. DOC SAMSON: 29 VOTES
11. SANDMAN: 28 VOTES
- 12 (TIE): SHROUD: 27 VOTES
- PUNISHER: 27 VOTES
13. FIRELORD: 23 VOTES
14. STINGRAY: 19 VOTES
- 15 (TIE): GIANT-MAN: 16 VOTES
- JACK OF HEARTS: 16 VOTES
16. COLOSSUS: 15 VOTES
- 17 (TIE): CYCLOPS: 14 VOTES
- NOMAD: 14 VOTES
- 18 (TIE): FIRESTAR: 13 VOTES
- BETA RAY BILL: 13 VOTES
- BLACK CAT: 13 VOTES
- 19 (TIE): HUMAN TORCH: 11 VOTES
- ROGUE: 11 VOTES
- FROG-MAN: 11 VOTES
- NICK FURY: 11 VOTES
- 20 (TIE): PUMA: 10 VOTES
- RED WOLF: 10 VOTES





MARVEL PRESS POSTER BY PAUL RYAN & TOM PALMER  
BASED ON AVENGERS #305, PAGES 2-3





ACTS OF VENGEANCE OMNIBUS HC AND ACTS OF VENGEANCE CROSSOVERS OMNIBUS HC COMBINED COVERS  
BY ALAN DAVIS, MARK FARMER & JAVIER RODRIGUEZ





PENCILS BY ALAN DAVIS



INKS BY MARK FARMER



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AVENGERS #304-318 & ANNUAL #18 AND AVENGERS WEST COAST #53-55

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